

THE AMERICAN

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# LEGION

MAGAZINE



**LEST WE  
FORGET**

HOW GEORGE WASHINGTON  
GOT HIS GUNPOWDER

•  
THE THREAT OF  
NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

•  
THE IMPACT OF  
INFLATION  
ON THE LEGION



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# LEGION

MAGAZINE

MAY 1975



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Volume 98, Number 5

National Commander

James M. Wagon seller

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## A LOOK AT OUR MAIL

Albert G. Karnell, of Hallandale, Fla., wrote to say that he deeply appreciated the one-page feature in our March issue, "The Meaning of The American Legion Emblem." This is the second time we have reprinted Prof. Robert Hart's graphic exposition on the Legion emblem over a span of quite a few years, and newer members who hadn't seen it before always found it interesting. Karnell, a retired Air Force colonel, went on to say he had never seen an intelligent exposition of what is meant by "Americanism," and that the Air University at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala., had tried, without much success, to find lecturers who could give a satisfying and definitive exposition on what "Americanism" means. He asked if we could publish an article that would be definitive. Of course, "Americanism" probably means different things to different people. But the fact is that the term has an intelligible history, loaded with meaning, and that 21 years ago, in May 1954, we published a rational history of what "Americanism" has always meant—and what "100% Americanism" has meant to Legionnaires, in an article called: "What is 100% Americanism?"

Professor J. David Truby of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa. (zip is 15701), asks our help for a book he is preparing on the Lewis machine gun, a WW1 vintage weapon that also saw use in WW2. He's looking for anyone who might have anecdotes, stories, reports and photos of the gun in action or of its inventor, Col. Isaac N. Lewis, USA.

Mrs. Robert Crowson, of Columbia, Tenn., wrote to say that she recognized the photo of a man in Indian headdress selling patent medicine on a street in Tennessee in 1945 (on page 9 of our March issue) as her late uncle, George Stofel. She intimated that she almost fell out of her chair on seeing Uncle George on the pages of her husband's Legion magazine.

Our March Pro & Con stimulated a flow of letters from readers stating in no uncertain terms that the

United States should in no way give up the Panama Canal.

Harold Oman, of La Porte, Ind., sends in a "resounding YES" to our Feb. Pro & Con question: "Should the Federal Government be Required to Balance its Budget?" Whoever lives always beyond his means comes to bankruptcy, and the United States is close to it now, he claims.

The American soldier's grave on our cover is that of WW2 GI John Mosinski, of Cleveland, Ohio, writes the man who took the picture, Air Force M/Sgt Walter Mysliwczyk, now retired, also of Cleveland.

Mosinski's mother asked Sgt. Mysliwczyk to visit the grave when he went to France for a tour of duty in 1959. The cemetery is the same one, near Hamm, Luxembourg, where Gen. George S. Patton is buried, as well as another friend of Sgt. Mysliwczyk, Henry Skiba. The sergeant and an Air Force friend, Fred Welch, were instrumental in having the Koders-Redding family, of Luxembourg, "adopt" the graves of Mosinski and Skiba. "They visit the graves and place flowers grown in their gardens at home. In Luxembourg, Nov. 2 is the equivalent of our All Souls Day. They treat this as a special day to pay homage at the graves." The elder Koders-Reddings have since died, but Mosinski's mother in Cleveland, now Mrs. Joseph Molski, still corresponds with a granddaughter of theirs in Luxembourg. We bought the photo from Sgt. Mysliwczyk in 1960, when he was still in the Air Force. When we decided to use it as a Memorial Day theme cover in 1975, the Air Force personnel center in Texas helped us locate Mysliwczyk in Cleveland this March, and he provided us with some of the details we have set forth above. Alas, he did not then recall the names of the two little Koders-Redding girls whose prayers at the gravesite attracted his camera 16 years ago.

Pvt. John Mosinski was a member of the 17th Airborne Division. On Jan. 3, 1945, it relieved the 11th Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge as orders were issued for the final counterattack that erased the Bulge. On Jan. 7, Pvt. Mosinski was a casualty of that final effort.



# ***"When we found out what AARP did for people over 55, my wife didn't mind telling her age."***

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*Irma and Peter McNulty*

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# How George Washington Got His Gunpowder

For months, the army could hardly have fired back if fired upon. Then the war materiel poured in.

By HARVEY ARDMAN

IT IS NOT very well known that from the first shot of the American Revolution at Lexington, Mass., in April 1775, to March 1776, eleven months later, the colonies were so ridiculously short of gunpowder that anyone would be tempted to judge

them a bunch of idiots to have taken on the British Army.

General Washington took extreme pains to make sure the British didn't discover his powder shortage. At one point in August 1775, had the British launched an attack on Washington's forces outside Boston, the Continental Army would have been out of

ammunition after firing nine rounds. If intense fire were called for by all hands, they could have lasted two minutes.

Masterful wartime propaganda by Washington concealed the truth while frantic scrounging for powder got him out of that hole. But shortages continued until the low point was reached on Jan. 10, 1776. On that day, General Howe could have won the war by launching an attack, for the Colonial army surrounding Boston had not one pound of powder remaining in its magazines!

After that, things improved. For the rest of the war, hundreds of tons of powder arrived, while muskets, cannon, bullets and cannonballs rolled in to keep a 30,000-man army going. By March 1776, Washington had enough ammo to tighten the noose around Boston. Under cover of a massive artillery barrage, Continental forces fortified Dorchester Heights, and on March 17, the British pulled out.

The tale of how the colonies got their munitions when they couldn't make them themselves is almost as interesting as is the tale of how they weathered the days when they couldn't have fired back if fired upon.

When Washington first took over command outside of Boston in July 1775, he was told that his forces had 308 barrels of powder, barely enough for emergencies. On August 3, he called his officers together to decide if the siege of Boston could be continued, or if the army should withdraw to the countryside. He called for a routine report on available powder and was now told that all the American forces there had only 90 barrels (good for nine rounds by the whole army). This was 218 barrels less than the meagre supply he'd thought he had. It turned out that 308 barrels was all the army had ever had, and most of it had (oops, boss) been used in the Battle of Bunker Hill, back on June 17, before you got here, boss.

"In moments of great shock," writes Washington biographer James Thomas Flexner, "Washington was inclined to recede into a deep silence. On hearing the truth about the pow-

THE GRANGER COLLECTION



Washington reviewing his troops when first taking command outside of Boston in July, 1775. He was soon to learn that he had almost no gunpowder for the siege.





In 1781, better armed than the British, Washington touches off a cannon in the final battle at Yorktown.



## How George Washington Got His Gunpowder

der, he did not utter a word for half an hour."

The staff meeting that followed showed as much guts as any other act of the Revolution. It was voted to continue the siege, deceive the British, and pull all strings to hustle up some more powder.

First, Washington leaked word to the British that he had 1,800 barrels of powder. He spread word among his men that he was embarrassed at having so much more powder in camp than he needed. Great amounts of that stuff could be dangerous. Don't you men be careless around these huge munitions dumps. But he ordered all random firing to cease (there was plenty of it) because it drew "the ridicule of the enemy."

He then rushed off messages to Congress and every colony asking for powder because he expected an enemy bombardment and "wanted to reply to it."

He told Congress the truth, and got an answer from Richard Henry Lee that 109 barrels were on the way and an equal amount would be sent soon. This was too little for a serious battle, but it allowed him to keep up token rounds of answers to occasional British cannon firings, just for credibility. Meanwhile, his troops, to whom he dared not tell the truth, kept shooting at geese, and firing to clean their guns—which probably helped credibility however much it depleted the powder supply.

During the siege in 1775, Congress scraped up, all told, about 700 barrels of powder, while Washington gazed out at the British ships coming and going in Boston Harbor, bringing in all needed military supplies. His own supplies arrived by the wagonload, yet for five months he had to keep up some semblance of a besieging force by firing at the enemy.

As early as August 24, he had wangled permission from Congress to hire colonial merchant ship captains to try to capture some of those British supply ships. The first two that put to sea went off on a war of their own, sacking Prince Edward Island, seizing merchant ships with no valuable cargoes and avoiding British military supply ships like the plague. Washington fired them in disgust.

But in November, two better captains had some timely successes. Capt. William Coit captured a ship with badly needed food and clothes for Washington's army, while Capt. John Manley took the *Nancy* right

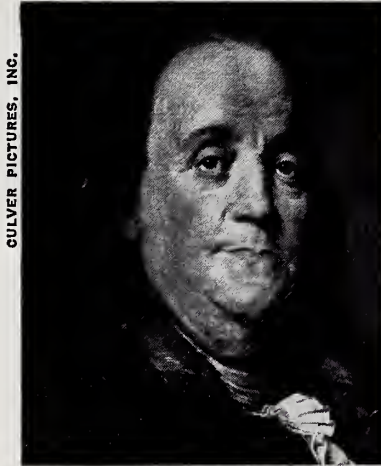
out from under the noses of the British fleet in Boston Harbor with a handsome cargo of guns and ammunition.\*

That was about the best Washington's private navy could do. Congress authorized a national Navy in October, but it was well into 1776 before its first task force went after some gunpowder, and its first effort was nothing to brag about.

uary 10 was the low point for Washington in the ordnance department.

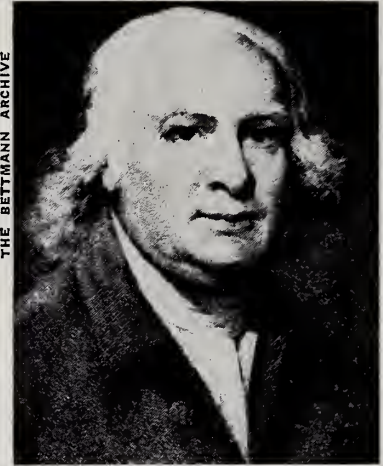
Our story now changes directions. Beginning early in 1776, the Continental Army began to receive guns and powder in ever increasing amounts, and kept on getting all it needed for five and a half years. There were horrible shortages in other things—even pay for the troops. At Valley Forge, the cloth-

### KEY FIGURES IN RUNNING ARMS TO AMERICA



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Ben Franklin



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Count Vergennes,  
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Pierre de Beaumarchais,  
French playwright, amateur  
smuggler.

On Christmas day, 1775, Washington wrote to Congress that "our want of powder is inconceivable."

But his bluff had worked, and was still working when he ran completely out of ammunition on Jan. 10, 1776. The British, still shuddering over their losses at Bunker Hill, never once launched an attack. Jan-

ing shortage was ghastly in mid-winter. But Washington's powder magazines were never bare again, and they were often stuffed with better powder than the British had.

And on the surface, this is very odd indeed. The colonies could not make their own munitions. They had to come from Europe. Yet—as early as Nov. 20, 1775—England had clamped a blockade on the American Atlantic coast.

It is quite apparent that an old

\* See "The Ups and Downs of The American Revolution at Sea," American Legion Magazine, July 1974.



fellow named Ben Franklin had a devious hand in the gunpowder game. At least as far back as 1773, Franklin—then representing colonial interests in London—realized that the trouble between the colonies and Britain might turn into war. He also realized that if war came, his American homeland would be at a severe disadvantage in the matter of powder and arms.

Franklin had a remarkable network of influential acquaintances and a communications system immune to British prying. He was friendly with the Crommelins of Amsterdam, in Holland; the Montaudoins of Nantes, in France; Diego Gardoqui of Bilbao, in Spain; Jacques Barbeau-Dubourg of Paris, and most of Europe's other great merchants and shippers.

His prewar communications network included many American sea captains who called on him in London. They were willing and able to deliver verbal messages to whom-ever Franklin might designate.

As the colonies grew more and more mutinous, the British increased their surveillance of Dr. Franklin. It was a dangerous time for him.

Yet today, most historians believe there is conclusive—if circumstantial—evidence that in his last years in London, Franklin set up an extensive gunrunning network to arm the colonies, in which merchants and shippers from every major European country participated, though not a single letter in Franklin's own hand exists to confirm this.

In 1774, Europeans started sending munitions to the colonies, the Americans making arrangements to receive it and sneak it past the British. There is a close connection between these shipments and the movements of Franklin's sea captain messenger service.

When Franklin arrived home on May 5, 1775, several weeks after the shooting began, he fired off a stream of letters to his European contacts, informing them of American needs, directing them to consult with friendly governments, suggesting by what route the supplies might be most safely shipped, discussing payment, etc.

The machinery for his munitions smuggling was set up too promptly to believe that it was not well under way before the first volley of the Revolution was fired at Lexington in April 1775. While Washington was pining for powder that fall, huge amounts of it were already piled up on the little Dutch island of Statia (St. Eustatius) in the West Indies. Statia was the probable source of

most of the powder Congress had been able to raise in 1775, and a key source of the subsequent larger flow.

Statia is a tiny little speck of rock in the Caribbean, which the Dutch had turned into a swashbuckling free port. It bulged with warehouses, and thronged with merchants out to make a buck. Its waters were busy with ships coming and going. It was, both literally and figuratively, an island of free trade in a sea of British regulation—a trading and transshipment station for business, fair or foul. Honest traders made deals there free of annoying rules. Bloodthirsty pirates sold their loot on Statia. There, though British

men-of-war inspected anyone's ships on the high seas, even gunpowder could be shipped. If a ship's papers were in order, Britain risked war with Holland, France or Spain should she molest their ships if they were en route to Statia and not running the American blockade. In 1775 and later, Statia became a huge ammunition dump. Merchants from the Continent ran honest cargoes of arms and explosives there for the noblest of all mercantile motives—profit. They sold it on Statia directly to agents of the Continental Congress, or to other merchants who would sell it to the agents, or to

*(Continued on page 36)*

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The Caribbean island of St. Eustatius, where munitions for America were piled high.



# THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL



What are the chances of stealing or hi-jacking fissionable materials for extortion or sabotage?

By H. ALLEN PERRY

**A** GREAT DEAL has been published and broadcast recently about the possibility of fissionable nuclear materials being pilfered by individuals or seized by armed groups, and then used for various forms of nuclear blackmail—or in actual acts of

destructive sabotage against society, either by exploding bombs or poisoning the environment with radioactive materials.

Nobody pooh-poohs this possibility. With the growth of the peaceful uses of atomic energy there is a steady increase in the amount of fissionable materials which pose a security prob-

lem because they are not under tight military guard.

Three different materials are involved. One is plutonium. Another is radioactive wastes. The other is enriched uranium. Here, we'll consider uranium first and pure plutonium last.

Enriched uranium is produced from uranium ore at processing plants, in "high" and "low" enriched forms, mostly "low." For use in reactors, it is fabricated into fuel rods, most of whose material



is not fissionable. The rods are shipped to power companies and other users. At various stages, it is theoretically vulnerable to small pilferage or seizure by armed assault. Both the U.S. General Accounting Office and the Atomic Energy Commission (before its functions were recently divided among two new agencies) have wrestled with the problem of just how much of an armed camp one can reasonably make of each of our increasing number of civilian nuclear plants to fight off a direct assault by a well-armed anarchistic group.

As processed uranium has to travel by rail, highway or air between processing plants and users, the question of how to secure it against hijacking en route is a continuing subject of concern and debate, even though most "packages" that might be hijacked travel under armed guard in containers weighing a few tons or more.

There are suggestions to transport nuclear materials in such massive containers that the smallest package that could be hijacked would weigh 100 tons. There are further suggestions to place processing plants and users so close together that needed transportation would be minimal.

Enriched uranium, as it is delivered to users, is quite safe to handle

in small amounts, and becomes dangerous only when critical masses are involved, by bringing smaller masses together. It is thus not very risky for thieves to handle it if they are sophisticated enough to know what they are doing. But only a very small percentage of the fuel rods are fissionable uranium 235, and most of them are non-fissionable uranium 238. Under reasonably tight security, it would be extremely difficult to steal significant amounts for nuclear blackmail.

It would also be next to impossible for thieves to make a credible bomb from stolen reactor fuel rods. The impression has gone abroad that it would be easy. But the fact is that most of the uranium fuel delivered to power plants cannot be made into a bomb at all, nor is there any feasible way for thieves to use it to poison the environment. Nearly every nuclear power plant in the country uses "low" enriched uranium fuel, which only generates enough heat to make steam from a reactor "bundle" of about 100 tons total weight.

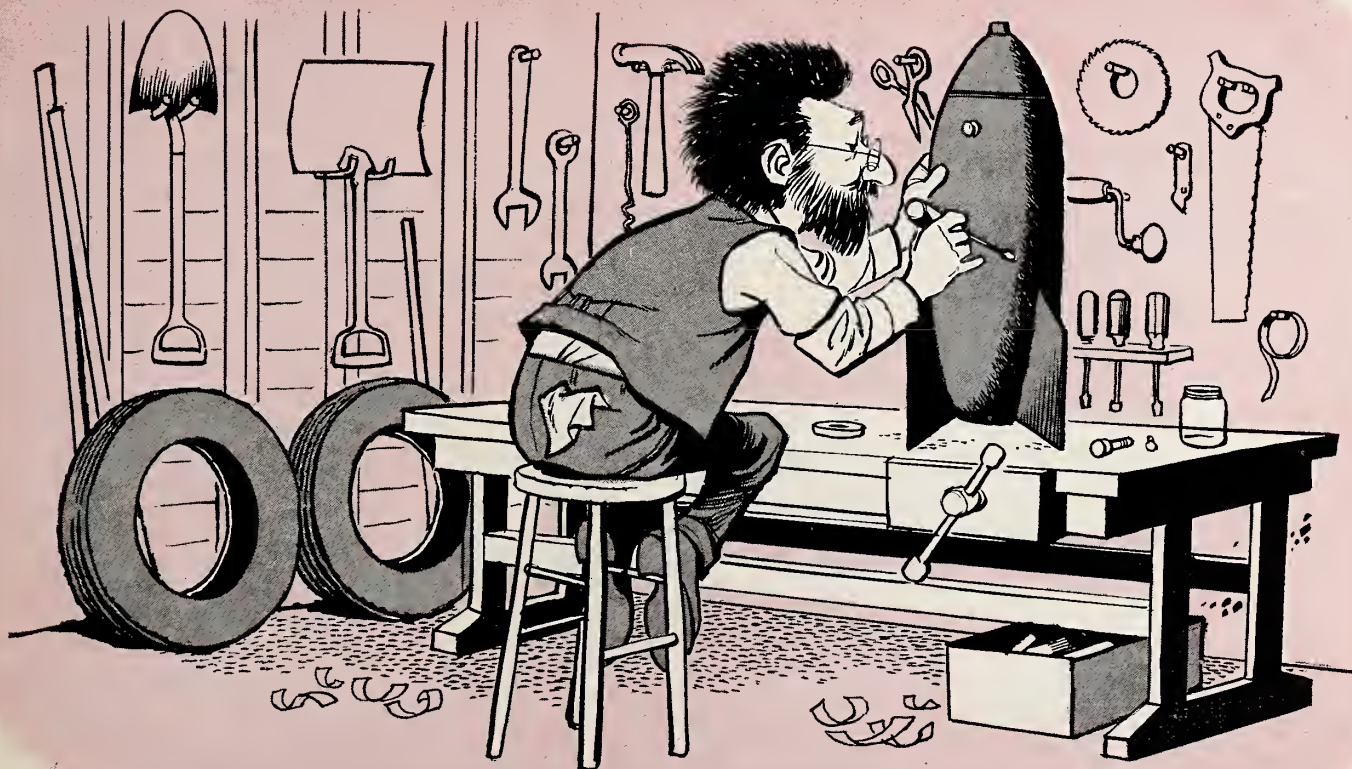
Only one or two power plants use "highly" enriched uranium fuel. In the form in which this is found in power plants, it poses, at least, enormous problems in snatching it and converting it to any mischievous purpose. To the degree that even a so-

phisticated group of outlaws could convert it to blackmail purposes, they would probably have to go after a fabricating plant that produces the fuel rods for power companies.

Enriched uranium is the only fuel used today for the operation of reactors. The general feeling of those who are concerned with security is that, provided reasonable and available security measures are well enforced, misuse of it by pilferage is unlikely.

How to make civilian nuclear installations secure from overt attack by well-armed gangs is another matter. Last fall, following several studies of the dangers of nuclear blackmail, the General Accounting Office—which is the investigating arm of Congress—reported general agreement by all concerned that existing security systems at licensed nuclear power plants "could not prevent a takeover by a small number—as few, perhaps, as two or three—of armed individuals."

Actually, the GAO's chief concern was not the prospect of such a gang making off with the unused enriched uranium fuel. The gang, once in complete control, would not find it lying around to be scooped up, like change in a bank teller's drawer, for a quick getaway. The fuel is in the reactor core, embedded in the physical pro-



It isn't all that easy for crooks to make atomic bombs from stolen atom fuels, but it isn't impossible, either.





While this comic situation is impossible, it is true that we could lose some fissionable materials and never know it.

CONTINUED

## The Threat of Nuclear Blackmail

tection of the massive reactor containment vessel. Given a decent alarm system, it is unlikely that the most sophisticated bunch of robbers could get at and remove the unused fuel in a nuclear power plant before the cops, the National Guard and/or the Army had them hemmed in.

The GAO and the old Atomic Energy Commission and its successor in the field of security, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and numerous Congressional hearings have all been more concerned about the seizure of extremely radioactive wastes—the spent fuels of power plants. They are dangerous in themselves and contain among their ingredients the third subject of major concern—plutonium.

A large backlog of these wastes has been building up. It had been planned, by 1976 or 1977, to start reprocessing them at various existing plants. The plutonium that can be extracted from them can be used as a nuclear fuel quite as well as uranium. The Environmental Protection Agency has asked for a delay in

reprocessing, however, because of doubts that it is yet safe to produce so much refined plutonium.

The wastes, after cooling at power plant sites, have for years been shipped to the plant sites of the proposed reprocessing. Some of the storage areas at reprocessing sites are now so full that some power plants are keeping more of this spent, radioactive fuel on hand than "they normally would."

Says a 1974 GAO report: "The used-fuel storage facility at a nuclear power plant is more accessible and vulnerable to sabotage than is the reactor core." The wastes are generally kept—in heavily shielded casks—in "an uncovered pool of water near the reactor" with less physical protection than the core. With more spent fuel now being kept at power plants "the potential consequences of successful sabotage at the used-fuel storage facility" has increased.

Any group which tries to steal these materials will have to come well prepared to protect itself from intense radioactivity when seizing

them, carrying them off and storing them for blackmail purposes.

Assuming that a highly organized gang could fish the heavy casks out of the pool and make off with them, they'd "have a helluva problem" opening them without irradiating themselves first of all, says a Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman. No bomb could be made from these wastes.

The GAO considered the fact that a gang *might* successfully make off with the wastes, however, and noted that the spent fuels are ready-made materials to "threaten public health and safety, particularly near a large metropolitan area, if radioactive materials were released to the environment as a result of successful sabotage." This was in a GAO letter to the Atomic Energy Commission of last October.

A basic problem, as the GAO sees it, is to be more specific about what will happen if a paramilitary group should attack a civilian nuclear installation. The AEC had always told the power companies that it would be up to the government to protect them from a bombing, machine-gunning assault—using federal forces if necessary, and local police for sure.



But, said the latest GAO report, there has been "no specific coordination with other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the FBI, to protect against or respond to attacks by paramilitary groups." Nor have AEC guidelines to power companies provided for making local police "aware that they would be expected to carry out the Government's responsibility to counter attacks by paramilitary groups against commercial reactors."

Thus, the security system against a surprise armed attack on a power plant has smacked of the situation at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941—with no advance plan of battle or effective warning system agreed upon, nor any division of responsibility in repelling an attack worked out for prompt execution.

The GAO's recommendation was that the AEC (and, since January, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) had better work all this out before it happens, so that for each nuclear installation there would be an effective alarm system to the police and others in case of an attack, and a clear understanding of what police and what federal forces would respond to a Mayday call from the nuclear plant.

A few years ago, many atomic installations were more vulnerable than

they are now. Several investigations revealed that minimum security at some installations was not being carried out. They reported lack of needed alarm systems and inoperative alarm systems, broken and unguarded fences, open doors and windows, poorly trained and unarmed guards, easily disrupted communications links with local police forces, safety perimeters unlighted at night, and more.

Starting in 1969, the Atomic Energy Commission tightened up its enforcement procedures and came up with a series of more rigid regulations, some now in force, some soon to become effective.

These require civilian nuclear facilities to provide specially trained and equipped security forces, maintain two separate communications links with local police, inspect secure areas several times a day at random intervals, check all persons, packages and vehicles entering restricted areas, monitor isolation zones around fences and install bullet-resistant windows and doors in reactor control rooms. Expert critics don't think this is enough, and neither did the AEC.

It went to Congress for a supplementary appropriation of \$87 million to hire and train more guards, build better alarms and fences and improve its inventory system of accounting

for fissionable materials, etc. When Congress cut this to \$23 million, many of the improvements had to be dropped, for the time being.

When the AEC was split up this year, security was placed under the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, a part of the new Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It has been ordered to investigate the security situation in depth and report its findings and recommendations to Congress not later than next January.

Whatever the security risks today, when the only reactor fuel in use is enriched uranium, the greatest anxiety attaches to the increased manufacture of refined plutonium, scheduled for the near future. The world's nuclear reactors have so far generated about 135,000 pounds of plutonium. Most of it is still mixed in with stored, spent fuels, and unrefined—though some European nations are now refining it. This is simply a by-product of existing reactors, even though they are not especially designed to produce plutonium.

But the next generation of nuclear reactors, on which work has been proceeding for a long time, will be the "breeder reactors." These will be designed on purpose to produce much more plutonium to be refined

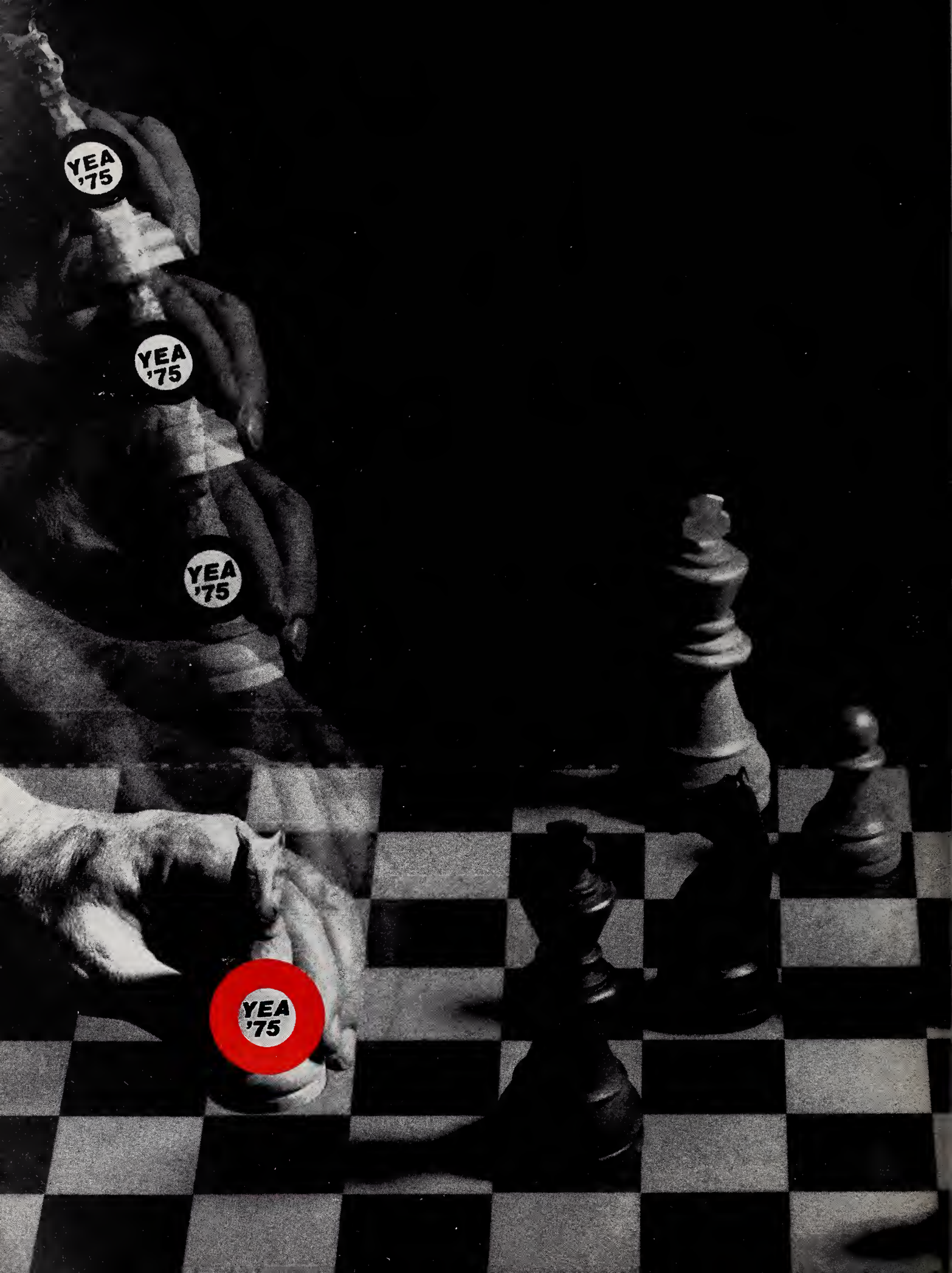
*(Continued on page 42)*

DRAWINGS BY BOB CLARKE



Security at some nuclear plants has been inadequate. It is tighter now, but hardly adequate against an armed raid.





YEA  
'75

YEA  
'75

YEA  
'75

YEA  
'75



**Year of Energy Action**

## **It's your move.**

Yes, *yours*.

It's time for Americans to stop acting like pawns. Time instead to sound off to your senator, congressman, governor.

To tell them your views on what America's energy policies should be. In letters. Telegrams. Phone calls. And face to face.

In the effort to reduce this country's overdependence on foreign oil, too many officials are still staring blankly at the pieces. Meanwhile, the clock has been running.

When what's really needed is to develop America's plentiful energy resources, and get them into play.

Cutting out energy waste will help some. But conservation alone is not enough. To fuel the economy and provide new jobs, we also need action to find and develop additional supplies.

That means cutting the red tape that's holding back offshore drilling for oil and gas, blocking wider use of coal, and delaying construction of badly needed nuclear power plants.

And it means encouraging investors to put up the hundreds of billions of dollars in risk capital that will be needed. (Certainly not *discouraging* them with punitive legislation.)

We think most people understand this. And believe, as we do, that more energy supplies can be provided within the framework of reasonable environmental protection. (Witness the many polls showing that even residents of coastal communities favor expanded offshore drilling.)

Let your elected representatives know how you feel, so 1975 can become the Year of Energy Action. It's *your* move.

*For a free booklet on the energy crisis, including 12 ways in which America can overcome it, write Year of Energy Action, Mobil Oil Corporation, 150 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y. 10017.*

**Mobil®**



# THE IMPACT OF INFLATION

Despite economies, the cost of our operations has risen more than \$1 million in the last three years.

By JAMES M. WAGONSELLER

National Commander, The American Legion

**I**N 1971, in Houston, your delegates to the American Legion National Convention increased the national dues for general revenue by 50¢, from \$2 a year to \$2.50, in the face of the all-too-familiar inflation. There was some discussion at that time of the need also to increase the subscription price of The American Legion Magazine, which was (and still is) \$1 a year to members.

Costs beyond the control of the magazine had, like everything else, been rising steadily. However, our magazine was still able to operate in the black and it returned a surplus of more than \$300,000 to the general funds of the Legion again in 1971 as it had been doing for 45 years. So no subscription increase was sought at that time. The total national dues of \$2.50 that emerged from the Houston convention broke down into the old \$1 subscription price for the magazine, and \$1.50 for all other national operations.

**T**HE UNPARALLELED inflation since then has gobbled up the action of the Houston convention with incredible speed. It is no fun to tell a story like this, but it is my duty to give every member a fair account of what has happened in some detail, even though everyone is familiar with the same pattern in his own personal affairs.

The cost of our claims services to veterans has soared even as the workload has increased. The influx of Vietnam veterans has resulted in a general increase in the veterans' claims work we handle. Their new educational benefits, for which we fought, have resulted in even more claims work on their behalf by the Legion.

Our national work for veterans and their dependents covering claims services, appeals, corrections of discharges, etc., is normally funded by 25¢ earmarked from every member's dues. Last year that fell \$400,000 short. We had to provide it from revenue not normally set aside for service work. It will run that much short, or more this year, and again next year even if we take the speediest action to increase our income.

It is ever harder to meet the costs

of our youth programs, be they for administration, housing or travel for the young people we serve. In 1975 it is certain that we will overrun our Boys' Nation budget.

Every item is up for our three national offices, including their utilities bills and such general operating costs as stationery, printing, postage and supplies. Utilities costs have doubled for our Washington office, its heating oil bill has tripled. First class mail, as everyone knows, rose four cents per letter in recent years, and the Postal Service is readying to add two or three cents to that. This amounts to considerable sums for volume mailers such as corporations and organizations the size of The American Legion.

Premiums paid for our group life and health insurance for our employees, whose cost is shared with them, have steadily mounted. So have mandatory contributions for our employees' Social Security.

This year we must revise the administration of our employees' pension program to meet requirements of the new federal law governing private pensions plans. We, along with every employer, will have to pay large sums to initiate compliance this year, and more to administer the program every year hereafter. New government tax-reporting requirements have increased our administrative costs.

We have not increased the per diem for calling in our unpaid committees and commissions to meetings and conventions, yet rising travel costs have forced us to overrun our budget for these call-ins by \$97,000.

We are, of course, getting nothing more for any of this.

**T**O FACE these matters, we have done what we had to do. In 1975, our national employees got no pay increases, not even cost-of-living increases. They thus suffered a real loss of income as their personal costs rose. Funds that normally would go into a reserve have been spent, and we will not be able to call on them again. Some employees who retired or left have not been replaced. And with all that we now face a deficit operation for 1975.

The real crusher is what spiraling costs have done to our magazine. It has been cut back and cut back again as its major costs rose astronomically. In spite of rigid economies, this year it will run up its first deficit since 1927—and a big one. In 1975, our magazine may show a deficit of close to \$900,000, due entirely to rising costs. This is all the worse, because until now our other operations have always depended in part on surpluses of \$350,000 and more from the magazine each year. Thus the expected magazine deficit represents not "just" a \$900,000 red ink item, but a reversal of around \$1,250,000 for the total national income of the Legion.

**T**HE PREDICAMENT of The American Legion Magazine should be spelled out clearly, in view of the enormous size of its expected deficit.

In the past, we have been able to produce it at a remarkably low cost. Members pay \$1 a year for it, a rate set in 1962 after it had been 75¢ for many years. That comes to 8⅓¢ a copy.

This winter, the *lowest* subscription rate you could get for any of 56 other magazines was more than twice the price of our magazine, and the *average* "low, low introductory offer" for all 56 other magazines was 50½¢ a copy, or more than six times the price of our magazine.

In recent years, it actually cost a little more than 11¢ a copy to produce our magazine, when we were running 64 and 56 page issues. That was just about 3¢ more per copy than members paid for it. Advertising made up the difference and a little more. Ads netted a little more and a little less than \$1 million a year. As we publish nearly 32 million copies a year (12 copies for each member), ad revenue provided right around 3¢ a copy.

For a long time, the publisher produced the magazine for at least 1¢ per copy less than income per copy, and this provided the surpluses of over \$300,000 a year and more for other Legion operations.

Then costs started to mount rapidly. Soon, the magazine we were publishing a few years ago would have cost more than 12¢ a copy. In order to break even and provide the surpluses needed, 64-page issues disappeared. Then, 56-page issues disappeared. The magazine went on a fairly steady diet of 48-page issues,



# ON THE LEGION



Nat'l Commander Wagonseller

with an occasional four-page addition when a color advertisement justified it. Seeing the price of paper soar, the publisher laid in a stock at 1973 prices which paid off as paper costs mounted in 1974.

Until last year, these economies permitted continuing, but shrinking surpluses.

From this much of the picture, we can derive a good deal of satisfaction, even though you can guess that before I'm through I will have to say that our magazine can no longer continue to remain solvent at a per-copy price of 8½ cents. At least, until now, we have succeeded in providing our magazine for less than half the lowest available price of *any* of 56 others, and for less than a sixth of their average price.

1975 is the blockbuster. Uncontrollable costs still soar, all economies that would not destroy a magazine that has already been seriously cut back have been exhausted, the paper we bought at 1973 prices is gone, while the possibility of retaining advertising sales volume in a depressed economy is an unpredictable cliffhanger.

The estimated cost per copy in 1975 will be 14.4¢—or 2.8¢ more than the estimated income of 11.6¢ per copy.

This is not only red ink, but a whopping dive into it, as the estimated deficit is \$894,500. Final figures may vary from advance estimates, but the expected deficit is certain, to within insignificant amounts, except for the estimated advertising revenue. Through May,

that is better than estimated. At its rosiest for the rest of the year, it might reduce the deficit to about \$800,000. At its worst it might bring the deficit to over \$1 million.

I am not crying on your shoulder with this information. It is your magazine as well as mine, and your organization as well as mine, and I owe you the hard facts.

The total figures in these estimates are that the income of the magazine will be \$3,690,000 and the costs, when holding to our basic 48-page issues, will be \$4,584,500.

**T**HE modern history which comes to a head with this inescapable plunge from black to red ink in 1975 can be told by starting with 1962, when the subscription price was set at \$1 a year. Inflation was continuous thereafter, but the magazine's management absorbed it.

In 1962, the cost of mailing the magazine was \$121,265. By 1968 it had risen by \$41,709, and that was just the start. Several years ago, the U.S. Postal Service said that it would schedule long-term increases in second class mailing charges for magazines. Our publisher and the Legion's legislative staff made numerous pleas to Congress and the Postal Service to continue the long-established government policy of granting favorable postal rates to printed matter, and especially to nonprofit publications. Favorable magazine postal rates had long been a federal policy in order to help foster the dissemination of information. During the last several years, many long-established national magazines went to the wall, and cited the postal increases as a major contributing factor to the closing of their doors. Casualties included the weekly *Life*, *Look* and the *Saturday Evening Post*.

In 1974, our magazine's postal bill was \$411,108 (\$289,483 more than in 1962), and would have been much larger had not the mailing weight of our magazine been reduced by running issues that were from eight to 16 pages smaller than the 64-page issues sometimes published in the 1960's. Trimming the size of each page helped keep postage weight as well as paper costs down a bit.

The publisher estimates that the postal bill (on a continuing basis of 48-page issues) will be \$489,644 in 1975—a further increase of \$78,536 over 1974. According to present Postal Service schedules it will then

rise about \$50,000 a year until sometime in the 1980's it will come to \$1,250,000 a year! And the post office is already talking about immediate, large increases over that schedule.

The cost of paper has a similar history, though the big increases have been in the last few years. There were eight increases in paper costs between April 1973 and the winter of 1974-75. Our magazine's paper bill for 1971 was \$1,022,930. In 1974 it was \$1,111,974, an increase over 1971 of \$89,044. But the estimate for 1975 is \$1,632,900—an increase of *another* \$520,926! This one increase is more than half the expected deficit. Again these figures would be higher had not the size of the magazine been reduced.

Although the economies and cutbacks kept the bill for printing in check, our magazine paid a printer's bill of \$693,985 in 1973 and \$754,715 in 1974—a one-year increase of \$60,730. The 1975 estimate is for a \$30,215 jump in printing costs, while our printer is trying to negotiate for more than that, citing *his* costs.

**T**HE publisher, the editor and The American Legion Magazine Commission have seen this coming on, though the scope of the increases in costs in the last year was not foreseeable. Nobody had expected that the paper costs for twelve 48-page issues would leap as much as half a million dollars in 1975. They were prepared to recommend an increase in subscription price quite soon, in the order of 50¢ to \$1 a year per member. They appreciated that this is not as small as it seems, as it comes on top of each member's post, department and other national assessments. There was a general feeling a year ago that such a move would be inevitable, but not quite as urgent as it has suddenly become.

**T**HERE is no getting around these facts. While there are various ways of allocating Legion revenue for all its national programs—because they are interlocked—some proposal for a per capita increase of \$1 seems inescapable at our 1975 National Convention, unless the delegates opt to retreat from our long-standing programs and publications. It should probably go partly toward a higher magazine price and partly to our other operations.

The National Executive Committee will consider these matters at its meetings early in May, and make some recommendation for the consideration of the National Convention in August.

END



# WHERE ARE THE GUNS OF TICONDEROGA?



Hauling the guns of Ticonderoga to Boston in 1775-76.

**A**S A BICENTENNIAL research project, we are trying to put together whatever is still known about what happened to the heavy guns that Ethan Allen captured at Fort Ticonderoga, and which were hauled overland to Boston under the command of young Henry Knox in the winter of 1775-76. There were 59 pieces of artillery all told, weighing 60 tons—14 mortars, two howitzers and 43 cannon. Two of the cannon are in Concord, Mass., where they have been fired at dawn every April 19 since 1804. One huge mortar, called the Old Sow, was at Oswego, N.Y., during the War of 1812, where it won a comic land-water battle with a single shot, using a cannon ball that had been fired at it by a British ship. During the Revolution, quite a few of the Fort Ticonderoga guns were sent south to defend Charles-

ton, S.C., when they were no longer needed at Boston. When Charleston fell, they were taken by the British. That would be Cornwallis' army. Did we get them back when Cornwallis fell? Was their identity lost? Possibly, local historians around the country have some knowledge of some of these guns. Do many of them survive or have most of them been melted down, lost at sea, etc.?

There is in Seattle an organization called CHAOS (or was the last we knew) for Cannon Hunters Association of Seattle. With members all over the world, it is dedicated to collecting records of any old cannon its members stumble upon. In 1970, we wrote to the then Head Hunter, Donald R. Clark, asking what CHAOS knew of the subsequent history of the old guns of Ticonderoga. He said that CHAOS' files had little

in them about any of these guns.

We will be happy to receive any reports with any hard information from anyone about the subsequent history of any of the Guns of Ticonderoga.

Maybe we will be able to tell a connected story of whatever is still known of them one of these days. Maybe there is a single cannon buff somewhere who knows plenty?

Does some New Englander know the bona fide history of the two Ticonderoga guns now at Concord? How do they *know* they are guns from Ticonderoga? What happened to the Old Sow since 1812?

History detectives may send clues or data to our special file on the subject: Guns of Ticonderoga EF 49, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Avenue of The Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019. **END.**



By GALE HOWLAND

**A**MERICA's freeways now provide an excellent system for traveling long distances in a hurry by car. It is also a system for whizzing past many interesting things to see without seeing them. From time to time we propose to show you here a few interesting things to be seen "just off the highway" all over the nation, such as Langtry, Tex.

**W**HO HAS not heard of Langtry? Here "Judge" Roy Bean held court in his Jersey Lily saloon. Here he administered his self-imposed "law west of the Pecos." Here he carried on his one-sided, long-distance love affair with the beautiful English actress Lily Langtry (1852-1929), for whom the place and the saloon-court-house were named. It is all the stuff of which myths and movies have been made.

If you are ever heading along U.S. 90 in that part of the country save yourself a rest stop at Langtry.

The direct southern highway route across Texas has long been U.S. 90. East of San Antonio it is now Interstate 10. West of San Antonio it is still just U.S. 90. Nearly 200 miles west of San Antonio, U.S. 90 just touches the Rio Grande around little Langtry, where the Pecos meets the Rio Grande and the landscape has lost its southern flavor and is wholly western.

The Texas State Highway Department has made quite a showplace there, only part of which are remains and reproductions of Judge Bean's sun-scorched little empire. They've built a comfortable visitors' center as well, and a huge cactus garden through which you can wander on walks and bridges while taking a stretch from driving. If you have a little time, the visitors' center can steer you to other things in the area to look at and photograph. It's all free and open all year.

Readers might clip and save "Just Off the Highway" features as they appear from time to time, against the day they may travel the routes mentioned.



## Just Off The Highway...

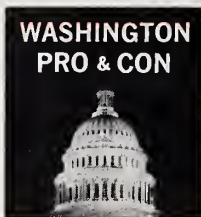


Judge Bean's original saloon-courthouse, preserved and maintained by Highway Dep't.



Passing travelers stroll in cactus garden at Judge Roy Bean Visitors Center. Southern Pacific east-west rails joined nearby at Dead Man's Gulch, January 12, 1883.





Opposing Views by Congressmen on The Question . . .

# SHOULD THE TOBACCO PRICE

**T**HERE is no clearer example of conflicting governmental policy than the federal programs relating to tobacco and its use.

Since the Surgeon General first warned of the health hazards associated with smoking in 1964, the government has mounted a \$3 million annual effort to discourage smoking. During the same time, the government has spent nearly \$70 million a year to encourage the growth and marketing of tobacco.

This governmental hypocrisy is perpetuated by the tobacco price support program. Like other subsidy programs, the tobacco program supports crop growth by using tax dollars to fill the gap between the market price a farmer receives for his crop and the price level set by the government. But unlike other subsidy programs, this one subsidizes death and disease.

According to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, cigarette smoking is the leading cause in the 600,000 deaths that occur each year from heart disease, 72,000 deaths from lung cancer and 25,000 deaths from chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

In the face of these statistics, the continuation of a government program that encourages and subsidizes the growth of tobacco is a national disgrace.

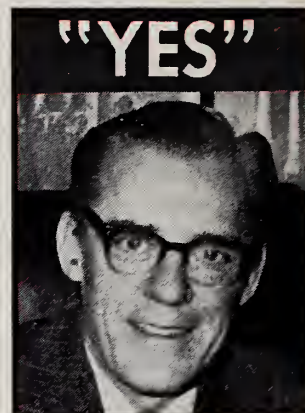
Direct price support payment is the most visible tobacco subsidy, though by no means the only one. Government funds are used to pay for the inspection, grading and classifying of tobacco crops, a practice that contrasts with the levying of a tax against the crop in most subsidy programs to cover these costs. Thus, smoker and non-smoker alike share this fee, which amounts to nearly \$5 million a year.

In addition, the Agriculture Department buys nearly \$30 million worth of cigarettes each year to

ship overseas as part of our Food for Peace program. It is hard to imagine what contribution to world peace cigarettes could possibly make. Worldwide food shortages make this practice even more senseless.

Clearly, the public interest would be best served by the elimination of all aspects of the tobacco price support program. Money from the pockets of taxpayers (two-thirds of whom are non-smokers, incidentally) should not be used to support a product the government warns us is unhealthy. Research efforts to find cures for the diseases smoking can cause would be more appropriate recipients of the \$70 million involved in the tobacco program.

Premature deaths in our country due to cigarette smoking are estimated at 300,000 a year—five times the annual traffic death toll. It is time the government stopped contributing to this terrible waste of life—by getting out of the tobacco business.



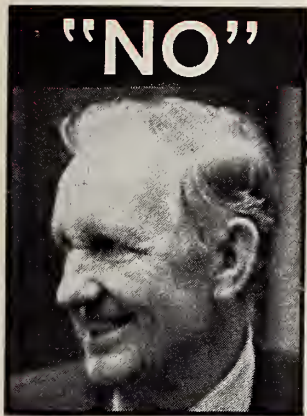
Rep. William S. Broomfield  
(R-Mich.)

*Wm S. Broomfield*

**If you wish to let your Congressman or one of your Senators know how you feel on this**



# SUPPORT PROGRAM BE ABOLISHED?



Rep. Carl D. Perkins  
(D-Ky.)

**I**F ANYONE tries to tell you that the American taxpayer is subsidizing tobacco farmers, the correct response is that it is just NOT true—not a word of it. As a matter of fact, the exact opposite is true.

The American tobacco farmer produces a crop which generates millions and millions of dollars of revenue for national,

state and local governments, as well as millions of dollars of income for workers and businesses.

Those who want to drive our American tobacco farmers off their farms claim that it costs the government money because of the tobacco support price, but that argument just won't hold water.

Most tobacco is grown under an acreage-poundage allotment system, which means that each farm has a certain number of pounds of tobacco it can sell a year.

This was done because there is a limited amount of tobacco that can be used throughout the world, and a great excess would drive down prices so that farmers would lose money, and be forced out of business. Since tobacco is just part of most farming operations, putting the farmer out of business would also deprive us of his other production—meat, grain, milk and whatever else his farm raises and grows.

As part of the program, the Department of Agriculture establishes a "support price" for tobacco, based on what it has cost to raise tobacco in the past.

If a farmer does not think he is getting a high enough bid over the support price for his tobacco, he can decline to sell it, and put it under government loan. The government then loans him the support price, and holds the tobacco until the market goes up.

The Department of Agriculture's September 1974 agriculture situation report pointed out that the government operated this program at a profit in fiscal 1974. It said loans equaled \$38 million but sales equaled \$269 million, which is a \$231 million profit.

Tobacco is an historic part of our economy—it goes back to the earliest colonial days. Right now, there are health questions involved in its use and there is a considerable amount of research going on over the health questions. But it is not enough, and I would want to see both government and industry doing much more than they are now.

But abolishing the support price would destroy the tobacco farming industry, driving thousands of smaller farmers out of business and into the cities looking for jobs that don't exist. That should not happen to a program which isn't costing the taxpayer a penny.

*Carl Perkins*



I have read in The American Legion Magazine for February the arguments in PRO & CON: Should The Tobacco Price Support Program Be Abolished?

IN MY OPINION THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS:

YES ☐ NO ☐

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

You can address any Representative c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; any Senator c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

issue, fill out the "ballot" and mail it to him. ➔



## The Night Sky

**F**EW SIGHTS are more impressive than an outdoorsman's smog-free view of the myriad of stars twinkling in the black night-canopy overhead. Each star is a sun, many of them thousands of times larger than ours and all so far away that their distances are measured in light-years; a light-year is the distance light travels in one year at roughly 186,000 miles per second. For comparison, the earth is distant from its sun by the miles light travels in 8½ minutes; a light-year is almost 62,000 times as far!

For observers in the U.S., certain stars are visible almost every night. These are the "circumpolar" stars. If a line were drawn from the South Pole through the earth to the North Pole, then extended toward the sky, it would almost touch Polaris, the North Star, about which the circumpolar stars seem to rotate as the earth turns. To identify them and their constellations, prick a pinhole through each star on the accompanying chart, (which will last longer if you first glue it to thin cardboard) turn it so the current month is on top, face north and hold the chart overhead, illuminating it from behind with a small penlight. Compare the dots of light with the sky. The chart is accurate for 11 P.M. on the first of the month; as the days progress, slowly rotate the chart toward the next

month. For every two hours earlier than 11 P.M., turn the chart to one month later; for two hours later, turn it one month earlier.

For example: for 9 P.M. in May, the top month should be June; for one P.M. in May, it should be April.

Unless you live north of New York City, you won't see all the stars on the chart every night; some will dip below the northern horizon. In May, southerners will not be able to see Cassiopeia but the Big Dipper will be high in the sky. The Pointers of the Big Dipper always point toward Polaris. In June and July southerners will not see Andromeda, Perseus or the bright star Capella. To everyone, Polaris will always be as high above the northern horizon as his geographical latitude. For example: if you are standing at 40 degrees North Latitude, Polaris will be 40 degrees above the horizon.

The popular designs of the constellations, not shown on the chart to avoid confusion, were founded on legends. The Big Dipper is the back and tail of Ursa Major, the Great Bear. The Little Dipper is in Ursa Minor, the Little Bear. The former was the nymph Callisto, turned into a bear by Zeus; the latter is her son, Arcas, who hunted her. To save both, Zeus turned them into stars. Cassi-

opeia was the beautiful queen of King Cepheus; she was so vain that her daughter, Andromeda, was sentenced to be killed by Draco, the dragon, but was rescued by Perseus on his winged horse. Impressed by his bravery, the gods placed them all in the heavens. Auriga, named Charioteer by the Romans, invented the four-horse chariot. The nine bright stars of Cygnus form the swan. Its large star, Deneb, has a diameter 135 times that of our sun and is almost 5,000 times as brilliant. Cassiopeia is one of the easiest constellations to recognize; its stars form a W.

**TO** keep your ice-fishing hole from freezing over next winter, remember this tip from G. E. Nusz of Selby, S.D. Before you leave it, place a bucket in it weighted with a rock so it's half submerged. When you return, pour some denatured alcohol into it, light it, remove the bucket thawed loose by the heat, and the hole is open ready to fish.

**EASY** way to clean camp pots, from John Hargrove of Kingston, N.Y. Add a little water, a scoop of wood ashes, and let simmer. The grease in the pans combines with lye in the ashes to form a natural soap.

**ONE** of the best game-fish baits is crawfish, claims Laurent Beaucage of Lewiston, Me. Flip over rocks in a stream and net them as they dart out. In still summer water, they hide in the mud, leaving a telltale mud ring; dig in the ring and they'll appear. To fish one, hook it through the tail. Be careful; they nip.

**FIRST AID** when a fish bone gets stuck in your throat, from Charles Hickman of Columbus, Ohio. Slowly suck the juice of a lemon. Instant relief. It softens the bone so it will loosen.

**SHOOTING** arrows in the rain causes a problem; the feathers get wet. First spray them with an aerosol water repellent, recommends Larry Stuart of Madison, Wis. Works better than lotion on dry flies, too. Also good for tennis shoes.

**WHEN** arriving home from a fishing trip, open your tackle box so lures and flies can dry out, writes Tom Schmiedeknecht of Milford, N.H. It helps prevent rusting and mold.

**ON** your next cookout, make meat gravy the easy way, suggests R. Carr of Harlingen, Texas. Into the juices, stir a little water and some instant potato. Better than flour.

If you have a helpful idea for this feature send it in. If we can use it we'll pay you \$5.00. However, we cannot acknowledge, return, or enter into correspondence concerning contributions. Address: Outdoor Editor, The American Legion Magazine, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019.



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MAY 1975

**NOV. 11 VETERANS DAY MEASURE CLEARS SENATE AND GOES TO HOUSE FOR ACTION:**

In mid-March the Senate unanimously adopted S-331, a bill to redesignate November 11 of each year as Veterans Day, a legal public holiday...The bill which presently calls for the action to become effective in 1978 so as to allow calendar makers and other future event planners to make preparations--then went to the House Post Office & Civil Service Committee where hearing were expected to be held...Sponsor and prime mover of the Veterans Day bill is Sen. Roman Hruska (Nev.), Chmn of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Federal Charters, Holidays and Celebrations...On the House side, Rep. David N. Henderson (N.C.), Chmn of the House Post Office & Civil Service Committee, sponsored an identical bill...The Subcommittee on Population & Census, chaired by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (Colo.), will hold the hearings...Legionnaires who are aware that only five states (Colo., Hawaii, Nev., R.I., and Utah) remain which still observe Veterans Day on the fourth Monday in October should not lose interest in the issue...It took a great deal of grass roots work at state legislature levels to get to this point...Letters to the above-mentioned legislators indicating your support for Veterans Day on Nov. 11 will definitely help.

**LEGISLATION TO UPDATE U.S. FLAG CODE GATHERS SPEED AS BICENTENNIAL NEARS:**

Other legislation of vital interest to the Legion for many years seems to be on the move in both Houses of Congress...In March, Sen. Birch Bayh (Ind.) and Sen. Strom Thurmond (S.C.) co-sponsored SJ-Res. 49 which seeks to amend Chapter 10, the U.S. Flag Code...Rep. Walter Flowers (Ala.) and Rep. James R. Mann (S.C.), introduced an identical measure, HJ-Res. 321, in the House where, hopefully, hearings may be set for late April or early May...The Senate held hearings on similar legislation in 1974 and may be able to move swiftly on the question...The Senate measure will also be steered by Sen. Hruska.

The flag code was first enacted in 1942 and in the intervening years (though it was amended in 1954) has not been fully understood by the general public and even by many civic

groups...Flag etiquette, regulations and ceremonials are subject to confusion and varying interpretations... New guidelines are sorely needed, especially with the nation's 200th Birthday just over the horizon.

**VETERANS PREFERENCE LAWS UNDER ATTACK IN NEW JERSEY AND MINNESOTA**

As Veterans Newsletter went to press, veterans preference laws for civil service employment were under attack in two states, New Jersey and Minnesota...Both states have a form of absolute preference...In New Jersey, as it now exists, any disabled vet who passes a civil service examination for state, county or municipal employment automatically goes to the top of the hiring list... If any veteran, disabled or not, is among the top three candidates, he must be selected for the job sought...In legislation proposed, disabled vets would just get 10 additional points on civil service test scores, other vets would get five points and all would be placed on the list in order of their final adjusted ratings with the employer free to select any of the top three candidates.

In Minnesota, House legislation being considered would confine the use of veterans preference to 10 years after discharge, allow its use only once (and not for promotion) and eliminate it for local municipal government positions where there is no merit system or civil service exam...In the Minnesota Senate, other measures would eliminate the absolute preference clause and require veterans to pass exams before using their preference points...Also, one of the three top scorers must be given the appointment...At this writing, the situation is muddled in both states with measures probably going to conference committees before further action can be taken...The Legion and other veterans groups are watching the situation closely in both states...The whole idea of veterans preference is firmly rooted in federal and state employment laws and practices...It developed naturally out of public gratitude for the service of the veteran to his nation and the desire to reward him by easing his return to civilian life with preferential treatment in qualifying for government positions.



# THE AMERICAN LEGION'S

National health insurance, VA pensions, vets economic problems, nat'l defense, the Southeast Asia, Middle East and Panama Canal situations are among topics discussed by Legion leaders with military and gov't officials in March.

More than 1,100 key Legionnaires from around the country gathered in the nation's capital between March 3-6 to attend the Legion's 15th Annual Washington Conference, held at the Sheraton Park Hotel.

During the four busy days, they met, both formally and informally, with Congressional, government and military officials to discuss topics of national importance and the Legion's stance on veterans matters and issues of the day.

Major events of the Conference included:

- A visit to Capitol Hill on March 5 where National Commander James M. Wagnon led a large delegation of Legionnaires in appearances before the Veterans Affairs Committees of both Houses of Congress to present the Legion's legislative program for 1975.

- The American Legion Distinguished Public Service Award was given

to Sen. Strom Thurmond (S.C.), member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, at the Annual Banquet to the Congress of the United States (see photos and story opposite page).

- Presentation of the Legion's National Commander's Public Relations Award to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, widow of the late President, for her efforts as First Lady in the beautification of the nation and on behalf of environmental protection (see photo and story on page 24).

- The 52nd Annual National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Conference, which incorporated meetings of its commission, panel discussions with VA departments, and addresses by Congressional and military representatives.

- The Legion's Freedom Bell Fund Drive was officially launched by National Commander Wagnon at the Banquet to the Congress (see page 27

for story and participation coupon.)

During his presentations to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs, the National commander reiterated the Legion's continuing concern over the possibility that enactment of national health insurance legislation now being considered by Congress would adversely affect present veterans health care programs administered by the Veterans Administration. (At least 17 bills have been introduced in Congress dealing with the very complex subject of national health insurance plans.)

Noting that the Legion considered it essential to the welfare of veterans that the VA medical care program "continue to be maintained in its present state of excellence, always subject to improvement, and as a program exclusively for the nation's veterans," the Commander urged that the following specific recommendations be included in any national health insurance legislation adopted: 1. That the VA Dep't of Medicine & Surgery be recognized as the federal provider of health care services to be maintained exclusively for the nation's veterans; 2. That any law guaranteeing complete health care services to all Americans should, at the same time, absolve veterans from the requirement of signing a statement of inability to pay, in order to gain admission to a VA hospital or receive ambulatory care for treatment of nonservice-conditions; 3. That the Legion will not object to reimbursement to the VA, from other government sources, for the cost of treatment of nonservice-connected conditions.

With regard to the ever-present problem of death and disability pensions and the substantial benefit reductions suffered by recipients as a result of income limits being exceeded due to increased monthly rates in Social Security and other income, the Cmdr called for a formula with a realistic "income floor," responsive to variations in the Consumer Price Index, that would insure a minimum annual income to those eligible. Thus, pension payable would be the difference between the beneficiaries' annual income available for personal use and the income floor, pro-rated on a monthly basis. In addition, the Legion urged that disability compensation be likewise keyed to the Consumer Price Index so that cost-of-living adjustments could automatically be made when prices went up.

Nat'l Cmdr Wagnon called for an official termination to the Vietnam War so that benefit programs which were



Nat'l Cmdr Wagnon receives standing ovation from Legion delegation as he concludes presentation of Legion legislative mandates to House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Standing, center, is Rep. Clarence E. Miller, Congressman from the Cmdr's home district. At right is Frank Hamilton (Ind.) Legion Legislative Commission Chmn.

ALNS Photo



# WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

originally created for war veterans will be used exclusively by them. He noted that "different considerations prevail with reference to those who serve in the peacetime military establishment."

The Legion's position in this area is firmly delineated in two mandates, Res. 541 and 542 of the Miami Beach Nat'l Convention, which point out that the benefits were provided for war veterans to help them catch up to the status they would have had if their careers were not interrupted or impeded by reason of active duty during wartime or declared

hostilities. The Legion feels those benefits should be reserved for war veterans and not be provided for veterans of all classes.

The Commander noted that the Legion still seeks, among other things, additional improvements in the G.I. Bill, increased employment opportunities for veterans, sufficient funds and employees for the VA system, and a return to Nov. 11 for Veterans Day observances at the federal level. (Forty-five states now have law for that date. See page 21, for latest information.)

## REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

Largest of the meetings was the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Conference. Chaired by William F. Lenker (S.D.), the conferees, composed mainly of Legion service officers, discussed problems and participated in panel discussions with VA top management people led by VA Administrator Richard L. Roudebush. They were addressed by Sen. Vance Hartke (Ind.), Chmn, Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rep. Ray Roberts (Tex.), Chmn, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, who

## Legion Distinguished Public Service Award to Sen. Strom Thurmond.

"In recognition of outstanding service to his country and to the nation's veterans as a member for 21 years of the Congress of the United States" is the wording of the citation on the Distinguished Public Service Award presented by Nat'l Cmdr Wagonseller to Sen. Strom Thurmond (S.C.), "Citizen, Veteran and Statesman," during the National Commander's Banquet to the Congress at the Washington Conference. An audience of more than 2,500 Legion leaders and Congressional guests heard the Senator respond that the Legion was the first organization he joined upon his return from service in WW2 and he praised the organization for its "worthwhile and productive programs in Americanism, youth activities and veterans affairs." The Senator called for a continued strong national defense, urged support for our domestic and foreign intelligence gathering agencies and decried the trend in America toward a "new isolationism."



Nat'l Cmdr Wagonseller congratulates Sen. Thurmond after presenting award.



Rep. John J. Rhodes (Ariz.), House Minority Leader (left) and Sen. John H. Glenn, Jr., (Ohio), one of the seven original astronauts and the first American to orbit the earth (right), join



in applause for award to Sen. Thurmond. In right photo is partial view of huge throng of over 2,500 who attended the Legion's Congressional Banquet at the Park Sheraton Hotel Ballroom.



## Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Receives Legion's Public Relations Award



Mrs. Lyndon B. "Ladybird" Johnson, wife of the late President, received The American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award at a luncheon attended by some 800 persons during the Washington Conference. The award was presented for "her dedicated efforts to beautify America by a concerted cleanup and beautification program along the nation's highways during her years as America's First Lady."

In photo left, Nat'l Cmdr Wagon-seller reads the citation as Mrs. Johnson and Past Nat'l Cmdr Joe L. Matthews, right, listen. The award was originally scheduled to be presented during Cmdr Matthews' term of office but was delayed due to Mrs. Johnson's inability to attend earlier sessions. She also received a \$500 Legion check to help develop the LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac River, a Bicentennial project.

discussed the progress and possibilities of various veterans legislation in their respective legislative bodies. Sen. Hartke also received a Legion Legislative Award for "Outstanding Activity in the field of Legislation" during a joint Rehabilitation-Legislative meeting.

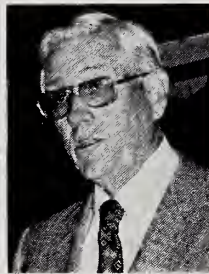
Administrator Roudebush outlined the VA's proposed Fiscal Year 1976 Budget of more than \$16 billion that would: pay compensation totaling \$4.6 billion to 2.6 million veterans and survivors; make pension payments of \$2.7 billion to 2.2 million veterans and survivors; give education and training assistance to 2.7 million veterans; care for nearly 1.3 million veterans in hospitals, domiciliaries and nursing homes; provide for 14.7 million outpatient visits by veterans for 1.5 million visits by dependents and survivors; help an estimated 365,000 veterans obtain home loans of more than \$10 billion; provide burial benefits of \$143 million and conduct a construction program worth \$406 million, the largest yearly total in Vet-

erans Administration history. Mr. Roudebush also stated his "unyielding opposition" to any action that might endanger VA medical funding or threaten the delivery of health care to veterans and fielded a number of questions from the floor.

The Rehab Commission acted on a set of recommendations received from various area conferences and referred several of them for action at the spring meetings at National Headquarters.



Sen. Hartke, Chmn, Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.



Rep. Roberts, Chmn, House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

### NATIONAL SECURITY NOTES

Speakers from the Dep't of Defense, Congress and several foreign governments addressed sessions of the National Security Commission, chaired by Vice Chmn Roscoe T. Morse (Cal.). Gen. Walter T. Kerwin, Jr., Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, reviewed the nation's defense posture for commission members, noting that U.S. power is on the ascendancy and is still respected throughout the world. Among other military speakers were Lt. Gen. James A. Hill, U.S.A.F., Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs and Resources, Gen. Robert E. Cushman, Jr., Commandant, U.S.M.C., Adm. John G. Finneran, U.S.N., Deputy Ass't Sec'y of Defense, and Adm. Thomas B. Hayward, U.S.N., Director, Navy Program Planning. All cautioned that military appropriations might be picked over in Congress which could result in diminished national security but they expressed confidence that our defense strength will remain adequate. Appreciation was expressed to the Legion's National Security Commission for its support of national defense aims and programs.

Rep. Robert L.F. Sikes (Fla.), ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Committee reported on bills now before his committee which seek funds for the defense establishment.

The Hon. Ashraf Ghorbal, Ambassador, Arab Republic of Egypt, and Mordechai Shalev, Charge d'Affaires for the State of Israel, appeared separately before a joint National Security-Foreign Relations Commission session to explain their national positions. Ambassador Ghorbal briefly reviewed the situation in Egypt and efforts being made by the



Photos by John Andreola

Rehabilitation Conference attendees pay rapt attention to speakers during sessions.



U.S. to bring peace to the Middle East. "It is high time," he said, "that reason, foresight and patience play their role to this end . . . It is time to defuse an international bomb that can bring down calamity on the heads of a lot of people everywhere . . . Egypt is not interested in pushing Israel into the sea. For peace to come, Egypt seeks only to have her territory returned and her rights respected."

Israel's Mr. Shalev pointed to actions directed against his nation since its founding in 1948. "Problems of the Middle East," he said, "are not pre-ordained. They are not the natural outcome of circumstances. They are man-made and, perhaps therefore, they can also be resolved by man. What I want to stress is the fact that wars in the Middle East—all of them since 1948—have been aggressions upon Israel. If the Arabs had not started the series of aggressions, we would have had peace in the Middle East all the time and we would not confront the present precarious situation." He urged understanding of the "apprehension that must necessarily be in our minds as we try and embark upon this new effort to bring about peace and the risk that we face when we give up territory before a real peace has been concluded."

Both diplomats referred to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's departure that morning for the Middle East and wished success for his peace-making efforts.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Foreign Relations Comm'n, chaired by Dr. Robert Foster (Mo.), held joint sessions with the Nat'l Security Comm'n and visited the State Department and Capitol Hill for briefings on Soviet-U.S. relations, the U.S.-Cuba situation, the state of negotiations in the Middle East and the Panama Canal.

Sen. James Buckley (N.Y.) recounted some experiences of his recent trip to the U.S.S.R. and gave his opinions on Soviet-American relations, the S.A.L.T. Talks, detente, etc.

E.C. Mills, Executive Director of the



Photos by John Andreola



VA Administrator Richard L. Roudebush (left) and Dr. John D. Chase, VA Chief Medical Director, led a host of VA central office executives to the Legion Rehab Conference.



Spirited questions and answers fly back and forth as Rehab Commission members discuss problems with top level experts from various Veterans Administration dep'ts.

Nat'l League of Families, representing the MIA's and POW's of the Vietnam War, reviewed for this commission the lack of progress by the U.S. and North Vietnam in fulfilling Article 8B of the Vietnam Peace Agreement which calls for an accounting of all MIA's and POW's within 60 days of the signing of the treaty. Mills, whose own son has been MIA for over eight years, said that now, two years later, there is still no accounting for these men. He noted that President Ford had been pressed to name a Task Force to prod North Vietnam into compliance on Article 8B but that nothing appeared to be happening. Nat'l Cmdr Wagonseller recently wrote the President calling for such a Task Force and offering his services, if needed.

## ECONOMIC COMMISSION

This group, led by Chmn Al Keller, Jr. (Ill.), heard speeches and participated in a series of panel discussions on all aspects of veterans employment rights, preference and hiring assistance. Representing the Dep't of Labor's Veterans Employment Service were Clayton Cottrell, Ralph E. Hall and Bernard Posner along with Compensation Program Director Herbert A. Doyle. Features of the 1974 Veterans Housing Act were outlined by Robert C. Coon, Director of the VA's Loan Guaranty Service. Vets preference, federal employment rights and compensation benefits were presented by members of the Civil Service Comm'n, Bernard Rosen, Ed Dunton and Joseph LeMasurier. Ass't Postmaster Gen. William Eudey

Jim Swartz



John Andreola



Rep. Ichord discussed disbanding of House Committee on Internal Security, which he once headed, at Legislative meeting.





Jim Swartz photos

Gen. Walter Kerwin, Vice Chief of Staff, U. S. Army (left) and Gen. Robert E. Cushman, Commandant, U. S. M. C., spoke to the Nat'l Security Comm'n.

spoke on employee relations in the U.S. Postal Service. Small loans, assistance to the veteran farmer and farm cooperative training were subjects handled by guest speakers Anthony S. Stasio of the Small Business Administration, Frank Naylor, Ass't Administrator of the Farmers Home Administration, Dep't of Agriculture, and Myron Wolowitz of the VA's Education and Rehab Service.

### LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Under the chairmanship of Frank Hamilton (Ind.), this commission received background briefings on legislation moving through Congress, accompanied the Nat'l Cmdr during his presentations to the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs, held joint meetings with other Legion commissions and listened to talks by Members of Congress and staff. Rep. Richard H. Ichord (Mo.), former Chmn of the now disbanded House Committee on Internal Security, detailed the events that led up to that action when the Congress was reorganized at the beginning of this year. Richard Barton, a staff assistant to Rep. James Hanley (N.Y.), Chmn of the Subcommittee on Postal Service of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, outlined the development of the U.S. Postal Service since enactment of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 and the functions of the Postal Rate Commission and the Board of Governors of the Postal Service. Mr.

Barton also reported on legislation moving through that Committee which affected non-profit publications such as this magazine.

### MAGAZINE COMMISSION

This group, under Chmn Benjamin B. Truskoski (Conn.), discussed Legion Magazine affairs for two days including the high cost of publishing (rising postal rates, acquisition of printing paper, ink prices, etc.) and the feasibility of moving some of the magazine's operations to the Washington, D.C. offices.

### NAT'L CONVENTION NOTES

At a breakfast meeting, Legion department adjutants, commanders and others got a progress report on current Minneapolis National Convention ar-



Jim Swartz photos

Hon. Ashraf Ghorbal, Ambassador, Arab Republic of Egypt (left), and Mordechai Shalev, Charge d'Affairs for the State of Israel, addressed joint sessions of Nat'l Security & Foreign Relations Comm'ns.

rangements (Aug. 15-21). Actual convention business sessions will be held beginning Tues., Aug. 19 at the Minneapolis Auditorium and Convention Hall. The Nat'l Commander's Banquet to Distinguished Guests will be held at the Auditorium on the evening of Aug. 19 where 2,000 or more banquetters will dine. Tickets will sell for \$17.50 each. The Hotel Leamington, Nat'l Hq Hotel, is two blocks from the Convention Hall. Legion standing commissions and committees will meet Friday and Saturday, Aug. 15-16, and convention committees will meet Sunday and Mon-

day, Aug. 17-18. The Drum and Bugle Corps Contest will be held Saturday night, Aug. 16 at Parade Stadium in downtown Minneapolis. Sunday, Aug. 17, begins with the Legion's Patriotic & Memorial Service at 9:00 a.m., followed by the National Executive Committee meeting and later, 2:00 p.m., the convention parade. For Monday, Aug. 18, a Legion golf tournament is scheduled at the Golden Valley Country Club followed by a reception and banquet. Play is limited to about 160 players with established handicaps. Further details published as they develop.

Free trips to the National Convention (or the cash equivalent) will be awarded to 25 post commanders whose posts reached all-time high membership for 1975 by March 31, as certified by their department adjutants. The Gold Cup Post Commander Awards are part of the National Commander's new post formation and membership growth incentive program. The names of all posts which qualify for this award will go into the hat and the 25 lucky winners will be drawn and notified.

### SERVICE OFFICERS ELECT

During the Conference, the Legion Service Officers Ass'n elected the following officers for 1975-76: Jim Hurlbert (Neb.), Pres.; Charles A. Zeglin (Pa.), v-p; Walter T. Hyde (R.I.), sec'y-treas.; Andrew M. Gorgon (N.M.), sgt-at-arms, and Paul Drake (N.C.), chaplain.

### ANAVICUS MEETING

At a special breakfast meeting of ANAVICUS (U.S. Chapter of the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada), Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Pres., presented berets and membership certificates to the following 16 Legionnaires: VA Administrator Richard L. Roudebush; Nat'l Vice Cmdr Boyd H. Clemens (N.D.); Nat'l Executive Committeemen Aldo R. Benedetto, (N.Y.), Johnson E. Davis (Fla.), Thomas Gear (Va.), U.S. "Udie" Grant (Kans.), Franklin R. Sickie (N.J.); Dep't Adjts Vernon Useldinger (N.D.), W.H. Dunn (Wash.), James A. Hamilton, Sr., (S.C.); Joseph P. Gavenonis (Pa.), Legislative Comm'n; J.H. Morris (La.), Magazine Comm'n; Tommy Mills (Miss.), and Gabriel Olga (Mass.), Economic Comm'n; William G. Nami (Tex.), and Raymond Weeks (Ala.), Nat'l Security Comm'n.

• The next set of national meetings of The American Legion will be held at Nat'l Hq in Indianapolis when national commissions and committees gather on April 28-29 to be followed by the Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee on April 30-May 1.



John Andrella

Weighty defense topics commanded attention at Nat'l Security meetings.



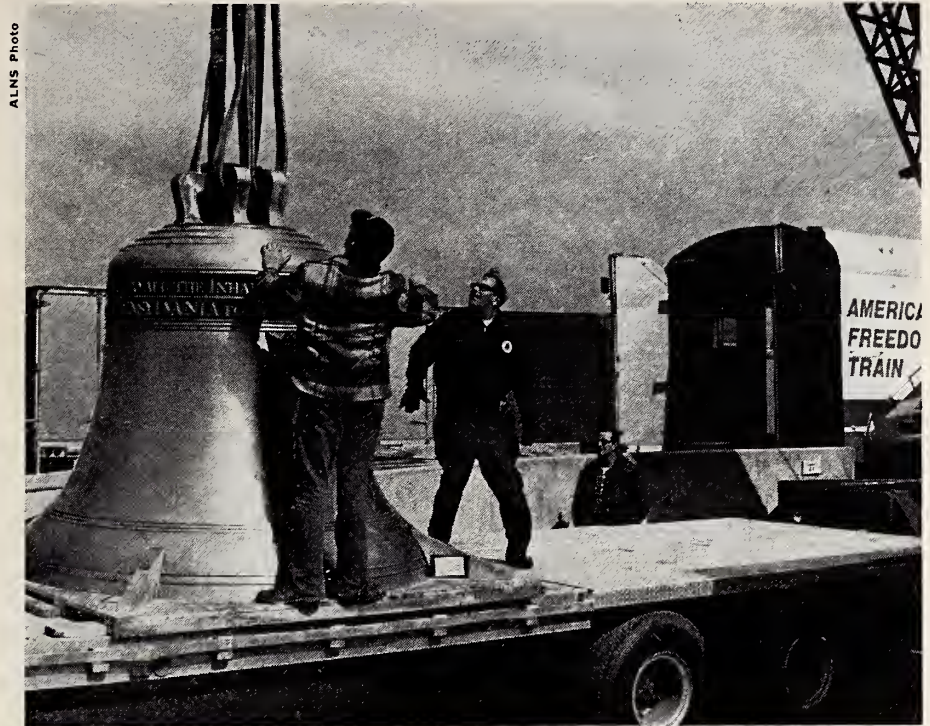
# Freedom Bell Is Legion Spirit of '76 Project

The American Legion's Freedom Bell Fund drive was officially launched by Nat'l Cmdr Wagon seller at the Annual Banquet to the Congress of the U.S. during the Washington Conference. And it didn't take long for Legion Auxiliary National President Mrs. Ione Kubby (Tex.), to stand up in front of the 2,500 banqueters with a \$25,000 check from the National Auxiliary to help get the project off to a good start. Earlier that day, Texas made another contribution as its Dep't Commander, Jim White, spurred the drive with a \$1,000 contribution from that state.

The Freedom Bell is the symbolic one of two major national Legion Spirit of '76 projects. It has been placed aboard the Freedom Train (see photo) that is scheduled to tour the United States in 1975-76 after which it will be installed in a public spot for permanent display as a gift to the nation.

The other project—a living one which seeks to help provide youth leadership for the future—will be an enlarged and combined Boys Nation-Girls Nation program in mid-summer 1976 when 300 Legion and Auxiliary sponsored young men and women meet in Washington, D. C., for a look at governmental processes and institutions. This will be capped by a tour of Colonial Williamsburg, Va., Independence Hall at Philadelphia and Valley Forge.

Both projects allow for nation-wide participation by Legionnaires and posts, the youth program through sponsorship at post level and the Freedom Bell via post and individual member donation to the Fund. On this page is a coupon which Legionnaires may use to make a lasting and meaningful contribution to the Legion's role in the Bicentennial Celebration. Donations are tax deducti-



Legion Freedom Bell being loaded aboard Freedom Train on Mar. 15 in Alexandria, Va.

ble. All donors will be listed in a roster of "The New Sons & Daughters of Liberty" which will be permanently on display at Nat'l Hq in Indianapolis. Donors of \$5 or more will receive a decal acknowledging the donation; donors of \$25 will also receive a commemora-

tive medallion and donors of \$100 will also receive a model of the Freedom Bell for home or office, with the designation "sponsor." Further details may be found in the April 1975 issue of this magazine. The Freedom Train began its journey from Wilmington, Del., April 1.

## CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

### Freedom Bell Fund

**Do Not Send Cash  
Through the Mails**

American Legion National Headquarters  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my contribution to The American Legion's Freedom Bell Fund to support American Legion participation in the Bicentennial Celebration of the United States of America.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print clearly so that an accurate record of contributors may be compiled.)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Legion Post (Number and State) \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary Unit (Number and State) \_\_\_\_\_

Sons of The American Legion Squadron (Number and State) \_\_\_\_\_



(Checks should be made payable to "The American Legion Freedom Bell" and mailed to: Treasurer, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Contributions also may be made through local Posts for forwarding to National Headquarters.)



## Salute to Legion Baseball On Its 50th Anniversary



1975 proclaimed as A.L. Baseball Year.

Dep't of Pennsylvania Legion officials have set the pace for the entire country by having Gov. Milton J. Shapp proclaim 1975 as American Legion Baseball Year as a salute to the program's 50th Anniversary. The program, the Governor said, is responsible for many boys receiving college education through grants-in-aid, and has made better citizens of the state's youth through its emphasis on sportsmanship and fair play. As a result of this emphasis, many of the boys in the program go on to become leading citizens in their community, state and nation.

Over 60% of the players now in the Major Leagues are graduates of American Legion Baseball, the Governor's proclamation said, which is further tribute to the success of the program.

In the photo, l. to rt. (seated): Rick Quinn, Harrisburg, member of **North Harrisburg Post 1001** team; Governor Shapp; Tom Buskey, Cleveland Indians, who played with the **Allison Hill** Lions Legion team, **Harrisburg**; (standing): Charles Gangaware, Legion State Sports Director; and Edward Hoak, Dep't Adjutant.

### A Model Poppy Sale

**Post 1, Leonia, N.J.** not only had an excellent poppy sale drive last May to help support veterans' relief, rehabilitation and child welfare, but Poppy chairmen Russ Walz (Legion) and Aida Rios (Auxiliary) saw to it that every member got a complete statement when it was all over. It named 20 Legionnaires and eight Auxiliaries who raised \$704.02 selling poppies in the community, and listed 153 men and women who directly contributed \$391.04 to the post and unit by mail for poppies. Total —\$1,095.06, with a full accounting in detail to every member. The post sold 2,500 poppies so fast that it had to get another 500. Also credited were six who worked on publicity, mailing, and the final accounting, etc.

This kind of reporting back warms the hearts of donors and workers and makes future drives easier. In addition to the usual distribution of Poppy funds for standard Legion and Auxiliary pro-

grams, the Poppy fund in Bergen County places a small dues assessment on each member to support a county fund for relief cases in veterans families, for the distribution of which a County Relief Committee meets to hear hardship cases each month. These are reported by service officers among the county's 70-odd posts.

### "One New Member, Coming Up!"

A membership promotion at **Post 52, La Crosse, Wis.**, has its roots 17 years in the past when Frank Devine came back from Korea. He joined the post, which offered him a job as bartender while he attended the Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He accepted.

Grateful to the post, Devine now offers Viet Vets this deal: If they join **Post 52** he will employ them as full time bartenders while they attend college. He arranges work schedules adjusted to their classes.

Late last fall Devine put up a prize for the bartender who obtained the most Vietnam members for the post. The four current young bartenders have signed up 40-plus, many of whom come in daily. Every Saturday night the post has a Vietnam dance for members and their guests, and just about every Saturday night the eager ones corral one additional Viet Vet.

The post realizes that it will not, in the future, retain all the young veterans as post members, but hopes that it has laid the groundwork so that these young men will keep up their Legion memberships wherever they reside after graduation.

### "Foreign Aid" For Fla. Post

The British Navy's H.M.S. Ark Royal made **Palm Valley, Fla., Post 233** her adopted home-away-from-home during a 14-day visit to the Mayport Naval Station. Many of the 2,700-man crew visited the post during liberty hours and found the welcome so warm that volunteers from the ship's company elected to help in the construction of a children's recreational area behind the post home. Shown in the photo are some of the work crew. In the center, Chief Shipwright John Watt (l.) looks over the plans with Post Cmdr Ed O'Connor. Kneeling is LS Sam Camminilli.

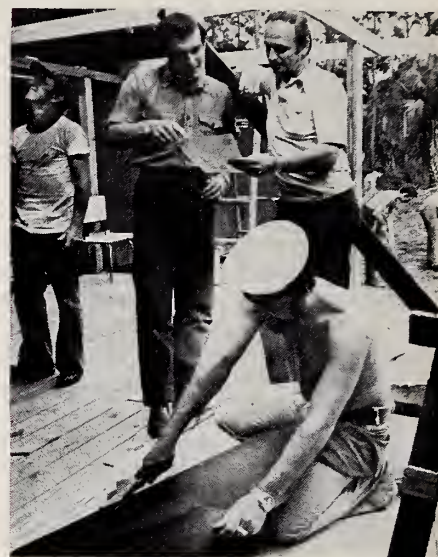
The activity is part of a project leading to a permanent recreational facility for neighborhood children and will include a basketball court, Little League diamond and fishing pond on the post property. Labor to clear the 150-by-1,080-foot tract for the recreational area had been the major obstacle. Most of the area was cleared and prepared

by hand during the young British seamen's three-day stint.

Post Cmdr Edward O'Connor, Adjutant Robert Ness and Tri-County Cmdr Robert Sowerby joined Auxiliary Unit 233 President Dottie Cantrell, Past Unit President Olive Reynolds and member Joyce Green for an official visit to the CO of the Ark Royal.

Capt. Gerard Pearse, Royal Navy, welcomed the group on board the ship and, on behalf of the crew, received Legion Certificates of Appreciation and an engraved plaque commemorating the new friendships.

Prior to sailing, CPO Ken Warner and LS Sam Camminilli (the prime organizers of the volunteer detail), along with 50 other enlisted personnel, were entertained with a hamburger cook-out and a dance. A handmade bell-rope was presented to the post home, along with an engraved wall plaque from the Ark Royal to the post.



British Men-O'-War to the rescue

### POSTS IN ACTION

Honoring its member, Past Nat'l Commander Warren H. Atherton (1943-44), **Post 16, Stockton, Calif.**, dedicated a room in the post to be known as "The Warren Atherton Room," containing many pictures relating to his career. It was he who appointed the committee whose members drafted the famous G.I. Bill that provided benefits for returning WW2 veterans. In the photo, l. to rt.,

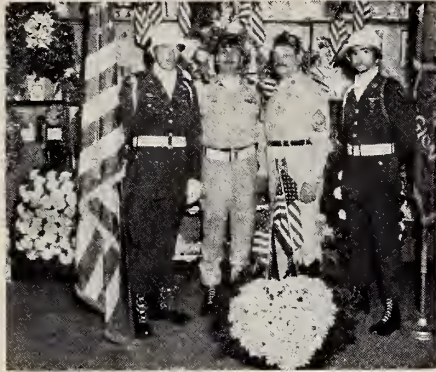


PNCmdr Atherton honored by his post.



are Post Cmdr James Machado, Dep't Cmdr Bernard Weddel, who reported on Atherton's accomplishments in the Legion and in the community, Mrs. Atherton, PNCmdr Atherton, and District 11 Cmdr Robert Symons.

NICOSIA STUDIO PHOTO



"Proper observance of Memorial Day..."

Post 30, East Boston, Mass., under the supervision of Cmdr Anthony Giannetti, prepared flags and wreaths for the decoration of over 1,200 veterans graves and squares, for the proper observance of Memorial Day. Many Vietnam vets have become involved in assisting the post in this program. In the photo are, l. to rt.: Milton Lashus, Albert Egidio, Cmdr Giannetti, and Sylvester Egidio.

Each Memorial Day and Veterans Day the Court of Honor at Perry Memorial Park, Carlin, Nevada, convenes. It was established as a memorial to veterans of all wars by Carlin Post 32. Forty-four or more memorial flags are displayed, each flag mounted on an individual metal staff with an engraved name plate. During this display, the area is

patrolled by a uniformed Honor Guard from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The park is named for Lt Cmdr Richard Clark Perry, U.S. Navy, who died in action over the Gulf of Tonkin in 1967.

Milo C. Huempfer, Post 11, Green Bay, Wis., who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action in WW2 (1944) while with the 551st Parachute Infantry, has been further honored. He has received the Bronze Star. The official documents and true copies necessary as proof of his feats—10 full pages—were mislaid for 30 years until found in an attic in June 1974. In the photo he receives the medal and citation from Lt. Col. Harvey Wright, of St. Norbert's College ROTC.

PRESS-GAZETTE PHOTO



A WW2 hero honored—30 years later.



Post 199, Minn., remembers the dead.

Minneota Post 199, Minn., memorialized the deceased veterans of the area with 163 crosses (see photo) with a departed veteran's name printed on each. Crosses of those who died while on active service are painted bright gold; the rest are white.

Post 96, Cicero, Ill., gave six traffic signs, showing the Legion emblem, a "Welcome," and the admonition to "Drive Carefully," to the town.

Two Santa Clara, Ca., posts gave a total of \$5,500 to the Crippled Children's Society of Santa Clara County. In the photos in the right hand column, Augie Gurrola, Post 564 Cmdr, presents a check for \$2,500 to Cynthia Schelcher, the Society's Executive Director, and Frank Gonsalves, Post 419 Cmdr, hands a \$3,000 check (from a luau) to Dellana

Blackstock, a member of the Society's Board of Directors, as 1st VCmdr Frank Sol approves. The money will send children to camp.



Post 564 (above) and Post 419 (below), both of Santa Clara, Ca., raised total of \$5,500 to send children to camp.



In this case, luau provided the money.

## NEW POSTS

The American Legion has recently chartered the following new posts:

Woodworth-Webb Post 293, Interlachen, Fla.; Lemar Horn Post 275, McRae, Ga.; Concord Post 81, Concord, Mich.; Warren Post 114, Warren, Mich.; Hadlock Post 342, Lincoln, Neb.; Cozell Ward Post 300, Canton, Tex.; Bridge City Post 250, Bridge City, Tex.; Coronado Post 515, El Paso, Tex.; Virginia State College Post 112, Petersburg, Va.; William Trent Johns Post 123, Farmville, Va.; and Mount Herman Post 213, Mount Herman, Va.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Foust Mills, assistant fiscal supervisor for The American Legion Nat'l Hq, retired after 20 years of service. He was the first treasurer of the HALE Credit Union, which serves the Legion's Nat'l Hq employees, and had that responsibility for 15 years. He also served as coordinator of music for national Legion patriotic ceremonies. Paul Allen, senior accountant, will succeed Mills, and Pat Towle, a new employee, will fill Allen's vacated spot.

Paul L. Weber, Director, The American Legion Life Insurance Plan, hospitalized undergoing open heart surgery on

## American Legion Life Insurance Month Ending Feb. 28, 1975

Benefits paid Jan. 1-Feb. 28, 1975..\$	424,670
Benefits paid since April 1958.....	18,131,612
Basic units in force (number).....	132,511
New Applications approved since Jan. 1, 1975 .....	337
New Applications declined.....	53
New Applications suspended (applicant failed to return health form) .....	44

American Legion Life Insurance is an official program of The American Legion, adopted by the National Executive Committee, 1958. It is decreasing term insurance, issued on application to paid-up members of The American Legion subject to approval based on health and employment statement. Death benefits decrease with age, ranging from a maximum of \$40,000 for four units up through age 29 (age 25 in Ohio) to a minimum of \$250 for one unit at age 75 or over. Protection no longer stops at age 75, coverage may be carried for life as long as the annual premium is paid, the insured remains a member of The American Legion, and the Plan stays in effect. Available up to four units at a flat rate of \$24 per unit a year on a calendar year basis, pro-rated during the first year at \$2 a month per unit for insurance approved after January 1. Underwritten by two commercial life insurance companies, the Occidental Life Insurance Co. of California and United States Life Insurance Co. in the City of New York. American Legion Insurance Trust Fund is managed by trustees operating under the laws of Missouri. No other insurance may use the full words "American Legion." Administered by The American Legion Life Insurance Division, P.O. Box 5609, Chicago, Illinois 60680, to which write for more details.



March 10. After release from the hospital, he will be confined at home for four to six weeks. His home address is: 371 North Morris Dr., Palatine, Ill. 60067.

U.S. District Judge **A. Andrew Hauk**, a member of Post 302, Los Angeles, Ca., one of nine persons inducted into the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame at Ishpeming, Mich., on March 15. He has been involved in skiing and skiing affairs on the national level for 50 years, including administration of the 1960 Olympics.

## DEATHS

**Morris L. Robin**, Waterbury, Conn., Past Dep't Cmdr (1969-70), and Dep't Judge Advocate (1956-58 and 1964-68).

**Guy Chambers**, 83, Lincoln, Neb., Alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman, 1933-34.

**Wallace Williams**, Elkton, Md., Past Dep't Cmdr (1927-28).

**John J. Burkhard**, 82, Napa, Calif., Past Dep't Cmdr of Wisconsin (1933-34) and Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1934-36.

**Clayton Boyd Orth**, 78, Phoenix, Ariz., Acting Dep't Adjutant (1942-44) and Dep't Adjutant (1951-68).

**Roger V. Flory**, in Florida; a member of the Illinois Legion, he attended The American Legion's St. Louis Caucus.

**Thomas W. Mulrooney**, 76, Wilmington, Del., Past Nat'l Executive Committeeman (1970-72), Past Alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman (1968-70), and Past Dep't Cmdr (1953-54). He was a WW1 veteran.

Legionnaire **Judge Stewart Alfred Cunningham**, 65, Louisa, Va., the Louisa County General District Court justice,

shot to death in the County Courthouse, February 13, by a man who entered the courthouse carrying a sawed-off, 12-gauge, pump action shotgun concealed beneath a black trenchcoat. The alleged killer, **Curtis Darnell Poindexter**, 22, had been brought before Judge Cunningham about a month earlier on a speeding charge and had been fined \$25. Poindexter's attorney at the time said that the spirit of the man's anger was more toward the trooper than the court. Judge Cunningham was a WW2 Air Force veteran with service in North Africa and Italy.

**Thomas W. Mulrooney**, 76, Wilmington, Del., Past Dep't Cmdr (1953-54); he was alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1968-70 and Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1970-72.

**Jack Cejnar**, 80, San Jose, Ca., former Indiana newsman and assistant Public Relations Director for Legion Nat'l Hq in Indianapolis. A former manager of the Indianapolis Bureau of International News Service, he retired as the Legion's PR Director on March 24, 1960. Later, he joined the staff of the Dep't of Indiana and became the editor of The Hoosier Legionnaire. A WW1 veteran, he had the distinction of having coined the expression, "The G.I. Bill of Rights."

**Edward Kingsbury Simpson**, 76, Edgartown, Mass., a Legionnaire who served in the Marine Corps in WW1 on Gen. John Pershing's Guard of Honor; he also served with the Marines in WW2 and was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He twice was decorated with the Croix de Guerre by Marshal Petain. He had suffered in recent years from illness traceable to mustard gas attacks on the Western front during WW1. Said to have been a charter member of Paris Post 1, Simpson was Edgartown's Civil Defense director.

## OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion will be held in month indicated. For particulars write person whose address is given.

Notices accepted on official forms only. For form send stamped, addressed return envelope to O. R. Form, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019. Notices should be received at least five months before scheduled reunion. No written letter necessary to get form.

Earliest submission favored when volume of requests is too great to print all.

## ARMY

4th Eng—(June) **Carl Jones**, Birchwood, Wis. 54817  
5th Inf Reg't—(July) **Sec'y**, 5th Inf Reg't Assoc., P.O. Box 2361, So. Portland, Me.  
6th Port Hq TC—(Aug) **Robert Hoffman**, 1101 Davidson Rd., Nashville, Tenn. 37205  
8th Arm'd Div—(July) **Henry Rothenberg**, 134 N. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. 60602  
11th Inf Reg't (WW2)—(July) **Richard Giese**, 4173 Grandview Dr., Gibsonsia, Pa. 15044  
14th Arm'd Div—(July) **Arnold Breitlow**, RR#1, Dakota, Mn. 55925  
15th Major Port TC—(July) **Roland Schaeffer**, 1805 Sybil Court, St. Louis, Mo. 63125  
32nd Div (Ohio)—(Aug) **Raymond Arnold**, 732 Martha Dr., Franklin, Ohio 45005  
36th Eng, H & S Co (WW2)—(July) **Daniel Lasorsa**, 133 Sumner Ave., Clark's Summit, Pa. 18411  
46th Field Hosp (ETO)—(June) **Majorie Burns**, 5150 Bryant Ave. No., Minneapolis, Minn. 55430  
46th Sig H Cons Bn—(Aug) **Boyd Hiser**, 9154 Springhill Ct., Greenbelt, Md. 20770  
52nd Eng—(July) **Bill Vance**, 2825 Chesfield Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43204  
87th Arm'd FA Bn—(July) **Fremont Peterson**, Ivanhoe, Mn. 56142  
90th Bomb Gp H (1942-45)—(July) **Tom Keyworth**, 38 Crestlyn Dr., E., York, Pa. 17402  
92nd Medical Gas Trmt Bn (WW2)—(July) **James DeLong**, 31 City Hall St., SE, Massillon, Ohio 44646  
103rd AA Barrage Balloon Bat—(July) **William Jaworski**, 5643 Birchwood Dr., Lakeview, N.Y. 14085  
103rd Div (WW2)—(July) **H. Ellsworth**, P.O. Box 207, Holt, Mich. 48842  
105th Sta Hosp—(July) **Owen Weiser**, 4930 Rambo Lane, Toledo, Ohio 43623  
106th Cav & 121st Sq—(June) **Raymond McGee**, 107 W. Franklin, Urbana, Ill. 61801  
106th Chemical Proc Co—(July) **Leonard Hill**, 218 N. 19th Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401  
106th Div—(July) **John Gallagher**, 4003 Frances St., Temple, Pa. 19560  
117th Sta Hosp—(May) **Sylvia Niemi**, 3933 S. Valley View Dr., Egan, Minn. 55122  
124th Eng Bn, Co B—(July) **Chas. Roadcap**, 1490 Nantucket Rd., Venice, Fla. 33595  
126th Ord MBS Reg, Co A—(July) **William Feindt**, 1003 Beech Ave., Glenolden, Pa. 19036  
150th FA—(Aug) **Richard Giese**, 1917 Eileen Pl., Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46819  
151st Inf, Cannon Co—(June) **Robert Knippenberg**, 182 W. 4th St., Aurora, Ind. 47001  
169th Cannon Co (WW2)—(Aug) **John Gebeleine**, 504 Idlewild Cir., Medina, Pa. 19063  
181st & 947th FA (WW2)—(Aug) **George Stanfill**, 1719 Valley Rd., Clarksville, Tn. 37040  
202nd Coast Art'y AA—(Aug) **Roger McCabe**, 7400 Edgemere Blvd., El Paso, Tex. 79925  
203rd AAA, Bat D—(July) **Alva Henderson**, 2817 E. 13th St., Columbus, Ind. 47201  
203rd Gen Hosp—(July) **Harold Axe**, 501 Market St., Navarre, Ohio 44662  
235th Observ Bn, Hq Bat (Korean Conflict)—(Aug) **Robert Gamboe**, Box 337, Pioneer, Ohio 43554  
238th Eng Combat Bn—(July) **Ray Transou**, RD #1 Thacker Rd., Box 691, Rural Hall, N.C. 27045  
242nd Field Art'y Bn—(Aug) **Lawrence Wiechman**, Box 113, Funk, Neb. 68940  
274th AFA Bn—(July) **Clair Simpson**, 29 Milton St., Seville, Ohio 44273  
304th Inf Reg't—(June) **Edward Cain**, 4509 159th St., Flushing, N.Y. 11358  
314th Inf (WW2)—(July) **Lou Pursino**, 130-34 58th Rd., Flushing, N.Y. 11355  
328th Field Art'y (WW1)—(June) **Leslie Reddaway**, 3234 Old Farm Rd., Flint, Mich. 48507  
347th FA Bn, Hq Bat (WW2)—(July) **Dale Marchbanks**, 423 Depot St., Oswego, Ks. 67356  
362nd & 363rd Inf Reg'ts—(Aug) **Bennie Schneider**, Richardson, N. Dak. 58652  
401st Water Supply Eng, Co B—(Aug) **John Frassa**, 143 So. Main St., Hackensack, N.J. 07601  
409th Inf, Co D—(July) **Louis Miles**, 2540 Batt Dr., SW, Wyoming, Mich. 49507

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**SAVE DOLLARS**



411th AAA Gun Bn, Bat B—(July) Edgar Gusler, 1110 W. Third St., Marion, Ind. 46952

446th Sub-Depot (England), 36th Material Sqdn (Westover)—(July) John Shorrock, 276 E. Middle Turnpike, Manchester, Conn. 06040

449th MP Co—(Aug) Marvin Johnson, 1919 N. Monroe, Tacoma, Wa. 98406

466th AAA Bn—(July) Robert Pearson, Litchfield Tnpk, Bethany, Conn. 06525

472nd Eng—(Aug) Ira West, RR1, Box 295, Walcott, Iowa 52773

475th AAA AW Bn—(June) Harold Hartzell, 2449 2nd St. ESPY, Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815

483rd AAA AW Bn—(June) Edsel May, Rte 9, Box 4, Florence, Ala. 35630

494th Arm'd Field Art'y Bn—(July) Ken Bradstreet, 1018 Prairie St., Emporia, Ks. 66801

494th Arm'd FA Bn, Bat A—(July) Joe Stankunas, 5804 Annapolis Rd, Apt. 303, Bladensburg, Md. 20710

511th Para Inf—(July) Matthew Pike, 32 W. 34th St., Bayonne, N.J. 07002

511th Pcht Inf Reg't, Co G—(July) William Miley, 1906 Paisley Ave., Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

512th MP Bn (Fld A)—(June) Ervin Sandham: P.O. Box 361, Pontiac, Ill. 61764

535th AAA AW Bn—(July) H. Boykin, Rt 3 Carrier, Batesville, Ark. 72501

628th Tank Destroyer Bn (WW2)—(July) Tom Walker, RD2, West Middlesex, Pa. 16159

713th Arm'd Flame Thrower Bn—(July) Robert Fisher, 697 Bristol Rd., Churchville, Pa. 18966

829th, 662nd, 319th Sig Serv (Co C)—(July) Stuart Maguire, 1468 Kempsville Rd., Norfolk, Va. 23502

843rd Ord Depot Co—(June) Bud French, 40 E. Harding Rd., Springfield, Ohio 45504

932nd Field Art'y Bn, Serv Bat—(June) Lamar Triplett, Nashville Regional Eye-Bank, Inc. Suite 544, Medical Arts Bldg., Nashville, Tenn. 37212

982nd Ord Co—(June) Ralph Hammontree, 113 Passons Rd., Chattanooga, Tenn. 37415

1138th Eng. C Gp, Hq Co—(Aug) Emil Laack, 1815 2nd St. N.E., Austin, Minn. 55912

1153rd Combat Eng, Hq & Hq Co—(July) William Baumgartner, Sullivan, Ill. 61951

3005th Ord Base Depot Co—(July) William Feindt, 1003 Beech Ave. Glenolden, Pa. 19036

3424th Ord Co—(July) Clinton Wiseman, 4024 N. Harding Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60618

3461st Ord MAM Co—(Aug) Bernard Greiman, Garner, Ia.

Persian Gulf—(July) Bob Peterson, 135 Krameria St., Denver, Colo. 80220

#### NAVY

15th Seabees—(July) L. Maxwell, P.O. Box 50, Independence, Mo. 64051

16th Seabees—(Aug) Harold Behrends, RR2 Talbott Add'n, Manito, Ill. 61546

25th Special Seabees (WW2)—(Aug) John Owen, 2110 W. 40th St., Lorain, Ohio 44053

96th Seabees & All AFF Units: 589, 590, 613, 1048, 3050—(July) John Egan, 9100 So. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, Ill. 60455

Former Prisoners of War in Romania—(Aug) John Briggs, Jr. Star Rt., Stuttgart, Ark.

Marine Paratrooper Survivors (WW2)—(May) Dave Severance, P.O. Box 1972, La Jolla, Calif. 92037

Section Base & Wissahickon Bks (Cape May, N.J. WW1)—(June) Jackson Clark, 949 Kenwyn St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19124

USS Chemung—(July) Henry Urbanski, 53 Roland St., Holyoke, Mass. 01040

USS Delta (AR9)—(Aug) Howard Vansciver, 2034 Lansing St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

USS Hunter Liggett (APA14 WW2)—(Aug) Joseph Rubino, P.O. Box 1307, Glendale, Ca. 91209

USS Jack (SS259)—(Aug) Norman McCall, P.O. Box 102, Cameron, La. 70631

USS Kidd (Desron 48)—(Aug) Harold Monning, 310 E. 8th St., Kewanee, Ill. 61443

USS McKee 575—(July) Bob Sneffy, P.O. Box 1672, Hereford, Tex. 79045

USS Preston (DD795)—(Aug) Frederick Ritter, Rt. 4, Box 498, Easton, Pa. 18042

#### AIR

2nd Bomb Gp, 20th, 49th, 96th & 429th Sqdns—(July) Mrs. Clyde Atkerson, 2630 Shelby St., Dallas, Tex. 75219

3rd Air Service Gp—(July) Walter Baker, 216 Arthur St., Zelenople, Pa. 16063

68th Air Serv Sqdn—(Aug) Lewis Berry, 1406 Main Ave. N.E., Cullman, Ala. 35055

302nd Airdrome Sqdn (WW2)—(July) Elry Wilkinson, 6327 Wilmarbee Dr., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46804

421st Night Ftr Sqdn (WW2)—(July) Arthur Hagan, Jr., 812 Richmar Dr., West Lake, Ohio 44145

452nd Bomb Sq—(July) B. Forrest, 3213 Oakbrook Dr., Del City, Okla. 73115

Eagle Sqdn—(June) Richard Alexander, 105 E. Market St., Piper City, Ill. 60959

Rosecrans Field (All Units WW2)—(July) William Ballentine, 2314 West Circle Dr., St. Joseph, Mo. 64505

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The award of a life membership to a Legionnaire by his Post is a testimonial by those who know him best that he has served The American Legion well.

Below are listed some of the previously unpublished life membership Post awards that have been reported to the editors. They are arranged by States or Departments.

Earl L. Toles (1969), Donald E. VanLuven (1968), Dewey W. Smart (1973), Raymond W. Ducker and Ollie B. Gaughan (both 1974) Post 14, San Bernardino, Cal.

George Hewitt (1975) Post 359, Norwalk, Cal.

Jack Oberle (1973) Post 86, Sarasota, Fla. Clayton A. Watson and Thos. M. Parrish (both 1975) Post 24, Champaign, Ill.

O. B. Davy, G. L. Van Zandt (both 1974), Joseph P. Littel and Chester L. Shaw (both 1975) Post 42, Evanston, Ill.

Robert Williams and Jesse C. Davis (both 1974) Post 87, Chicago, Ill.

Alfred W. Bunge, Walter J. Haas and Grover Conger (all 1973) Post 261, Cedar Lake, Ind.

Olen Q. Lewis (1964), Tesla L. Lundry, Donald K. Nelson (both 1975), Walter B. Stansbury (1949) and Clarence R. Wharton (1960) Post 303, South Bend, Ind.

Vernon McLaughlin, Maurice Cox, Howard Hughes, Vern Smith and Joe B. Harkin (all 1975) Post 562, Cumming, Iowa

Lowell C. Burmaster, Thomas D. Doyle and Daniel J. Quirk (all 1975) Post 218, Algiers, La.

Jacob L. Myers, Roswell C. Rhorbough, Rev. Lee A. Powell, Newman Twigg and Paul E. Wixon (all 1975) Post 200, Hampstead, Md.

Theron Taylor (1972) Post 139, Ayer, Mass. Henry C. Pragoff (1974) Post 281, Boston, Mass.

Vern Awe (1974), St. Clair Carroll (1973), Adam Dolata, Harold G. Kage, Henry Morock (all 1970) Post 351, Utica, Mich.

Albert LaFountain (1975) Post 4, Keene, N.H.

John Flaherty (1975) Post 13, Haworth, N.J.

Harold M. Smith, Joseph A. Smith, Ruben D. Stevens, Richard Timke, Jr., and J. Wilbur Wright (all 1974) Post 103, Washington, N.J.

Stanley A. LaVigne (1972) and Gregory Haley (1975) Post 166, Lakewood, N.J.

Ralph T. Anderson and Vincent J. Grande (both 1974) Post 269, Emerson, N.J.

William A. Marino (1975) Post 125, Staten Island, N.Y.

Grant Schreader (1975) Post 366, Seneca Falls, N.Y.

Edward A. Granka (1975) Post 651, Sayville, N.Y.

Donald Anderson, William Anderson, Samuel Ingrato, John Lapishka and Lawrence Scesny (all 1975) Post 927, Green Island, N.Y.

Melvin Schneider (1975) Post 1011, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Joseph Buckner (1972) Post 1151, Henrietta, N.Y.

J. B. Creech (1974) and J. R. Miller (1975) Post 77, Hendersonville, N.C.

Richard Brogie, John F. Oster, Thomas J. McManus (all 1974) and Jesus F. Garcia (1975) Post 1, Panama, C.Z.

Arthur W. Steigerwald (1960), Daniel A. Drew (1965), Edw. J. Iribacher, Sr. and Dau L. Rees (both 1972) Post 161, Wexford, Pa.

James D. Pfeifer, Joseph L. Porcelli, Frank O. Ruble, Joseph Schroeder and John W. Slavik (all 1974) Post 498, Rochester, Pa.

Richard L. Brown (1975) Post 713, Philadelphia, Pa.

Raymond L. Benson, Fay Edleman, Ed LaForce and Theodore W. Seuff (all 1973) Post 139, Seattle, Wash.

Life Memberships are accepted for publication only on an official form, which we provide. Reports received only from Commander, Adjutant or Finance Officer of Post which awarded the life membership.

They may get form by sending stamped, self-addressed return envelope to:

"L.M. Form, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019."

On a corner of the return envelope write the number of names you wish to report. No written letter necessary to get forms.

## COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to do so. Usually a statement is needed in support of a VA claim.

Notices are run only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search For Witness Forms available only from State Legion Service Offices.

135th Scabees (Okinawa 1945)—Need to hear from any comrades who recall that Harvey Leonard Krause suffered from a lung condition caused by action of welding galvanized metal in a tank. Write "CD256, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019"

205th Ord Co, Med Maint (Hollandia, New Guinea Apr 17, 1945)—Need to hear from Capt. Laney, Lt. Godici, Sgts Andrews, Stranberger, Cullum, Slitter and Atkins, and Cpl Grafico and any other comrades who knew that Paul A. Lampe had an ulcer break out on his ankle. Write "CD257, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019"

2nd Div, 38th Reg't, Hq (Korea Jan 30, 1951)—Need to hear from Pittman, Marrion, Co Baker McGaze, Budro, Deargard, Capt Gray, WO Stutters, Robert, Bayless and any other comrades who recall that W. R. Hendrick suffered from frozen feet, dizziness and "smothering" spells and was involved in a wrecked jeep. Write "CD258, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019"

9th Marine Div, 1st Bn (March 1964)—Need to hear from Pfc Peppin of 5th Marine Div, 3rd Bn (last seen in July 1965) and any other comrades who knew that Thomas Hugh Cavender hurt his back. He was stationed on ship coming back from Okinawa to Camp Pendleton (apparently joining 3rd Bn, 5th Marines). Write "CD259, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019"

## Earwax: the sneak thief of sound.

Government studies show that hearing problems and age go hand in hand. These studies also show that many hearing problems are merely due to excessive earwax. Of course, anyone suspecting a hearing problem should consult a physician to determine the cause.

One way for earwax to impair hearing is very simple. As we grow older, the fine hairs lining our ear canals grow coarse. Eventually, they can prevent earwax that forms daily from getting out. This in turn muffles sounds trying to get in. Because the wax builds up so gradually, your hearing can diminish without you realizing it.

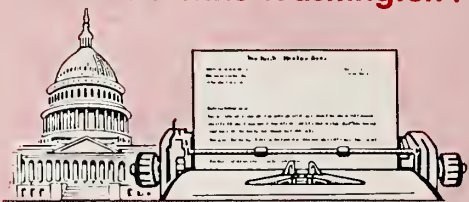
The safest, most effective way to remove earwax is by using DEBROX® Drops regularly. DEBROX is recommended by thousands of physicians. They know it safely removes wax and can be used daily to prevent buildup. DEBROX costs only pennies a day and is available at drugstores without a prescription.

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## Dateline Washington . . .



## GOV'T SPENDING EARTHBOUND? GOING BACK TO THE COUNTRY. SOCIAL SECURITY DEFICITS.

Taxpayers, still grumbling over their April 15th tax bills, may one day find out how much each government spending program would cost each family, if Sen. J. Glenn Beall is successful. The Maryland Senator has introduced what he calls a "Truth in Spending" bill which would force Congress in all its public bills, resolutions and committee reports to estimate the cost to the average American family of each proposal.

For example, the Beall bill would have told taxpayers in advance that last year the military cost \$990.54; health, education, welfare and labor, \$573.65; and Congressional operations, \$8.67, for each average family of 3.6 members with an income of about \$13,000 annually.

Now Congressmen will not only take credit for their spending programs, but will have to tell their constituents, in terms the taxpayer can understand, exactly what these ideas will cost them. "My proposal," Beall said, "will bring the astronomical figures of Government spending down to earth."

Reversing a 50-year trend, Americans are deserting the cities and heading back to small towns and rural communities. Ass't Sec'y of Agriculture Will Erwin attributes the major population shift primarily to increases in job openings in and around small towns, giving the communities a degree of prosperity they haven't had in a long time.

Job opportunities in rural areas increased 2.6% per year in the three-year period ending in 1973, as contrasted to a 1.2% increase in city jobs. These new rural jobs help reverse a trend which saw 30% of retail and consumer service enterprises, in towns of less than 2,500, close their doors between 1950 and 1970.

In the past 25 years, 21 million people left the farms; and the current rural population, according to Erwin, has stabilized at 9½ million.

Debate over the Social Security program is bringing forth varied and conflicting views on how to solve a projected long-term

deficit in the system. Everybody is in the act on how to solve the financial problem -- Congress, a blue-ribbon panel of former cabinet members, an advisory council and the unions.

A Senate report suggests that Social Security income (payroll taxes under the present law) will fall considerably short of the amounts needed to pay out over the next 75 years. The AFL-CIO, rejecting criticism of the system's soundness, has recommended major increases in taxes from employers and higher-paid workers, coupled with an immediate boost in payments to combat inflation.

One suggestion by the advisory council is that the \$1.8 billion in Social Security taxes now going for medicare be gradually shifted away from the payroll tax. Everyone is agreed on one thing...now is the time to take steps to assure the financial integrity and long-range financial soundness of the program.

### PEOPLE & QUOTES

#### FILIBUSTER CURB

"The filibuster is designed to protect minorities. I wouldn't wipe out the opportunity to protect minorities. But I would make it somewhat easier to stop filibusters so that we can't have the Congressional branch stopped in its tracks." Sen. Alan Cranston (Calif.)

#### ROSY VIEW

"I am optimistic about people, about the United States, about business and about life in general." Lee A. Iacocca, president, Ford Motor Co.

#### ECONOMIC POLITICS

"One might say that in terms of economics, we feel reasonably confident that we know what needs to be done. The question is, as a matter of politics, do we have what it takes to do it?" George Shultz, former Treasury Sec'y.

#### FROM A WHEELCHAIR

"When you've been in the valley of the shadow you realize how frail life is." Gov. George Wallace, Ala.

#### TRUST ON TRIAL!

"The atmosphere of Watergate has polluted the atmosphere of other democratic countries. Nobody trusts anybody anymore." Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau.

#### NEW ACHIEVERS

"We are in a new world of vigorous trading partners and proud developing people who are achieving, and will insist upon more achievement of, their rising expectations." John K. Tabor, Under Sec'y of Commerce.

#### UNIQUE PEOPLE

"Man is unique among all living phenomena as the most adaptable omni-environment, and operating organism." R. Buckminster Fuller, inventor-discoverer.



## Time to Get Going Again

By John Andreola

**"W**HEN the going gets tough, the Legion gets going."

Perhaps, in the decades of prosperity since WW2, some Legion posts have forgotten that that's an old Legion motto, which it proved time and again in years gone by.

Probably more now than at any time since the days of the Big Depression, the Legion—with its dedication to helping out in community crises—needs to get going to provide help for members and other veterans who are out of work.

Whether it is recognized or not, local Legion posts *can* assume great importance in a worsening national economic situation. Times like these are when the Legion has always drawn together in the past. It may be that many a post would have to rediscover the varied ways it can organize to be of "mutual helpfulness" to comrades and other veterans who need jobs, or whose families are suffering because they are jobless.

But the posts did it in the past.

With nobody to show them the way, they figured it out themselves. They did it in the days of the apple-peddling veterans after WW1. They did it again in the Great Depression. They did it again in recent years for Vietnam veterans in particular.

They set up committees to collect information about available jobs, steering jobless veterans to them. Posts registered members who were out of work and referred them quickly to any available jobs any other members heard of. Bulletin boards in post homes listed job opportunities.

Post and district Legion emergency funds were set up to give temporary aid to the worst cases of dire need in the families of jobless veterans. One of these "central relief funds," founded in the Depression by a small allotment out of the dues of the members of the many posts in Bergen County, N.J., is still going, though demands on it in recent years have been small.

During the Depression, Legion posts figured out purely local emergency job relief methods, using their ingenuity and their local knowledge to come up with solutions that wouldn't work anywhere else. They were an inventive lot, and a dedicated one.

In the hard times of the past, Legionnaires, by involving themselves with individual cases, got to know all about the unemployment problems of veterans that they could not

solve. They took these to the state and federal governments, and out of their knowledge and efforts came the state employment agencies and the federal job programs and job policies for veterans of the Department of Labor.

There are probably more than a million veterans out of work right now. Many—nobody knows exactly how many—are Legionnaires. Tick off in your mind the members of your post who may be out of work, or ask around. You may find it's more than just a few. These members need help. All veterans out of work need help. Your post can do something.

In our March issue we told how three posts in Pennsylvania's 14th Legion District recently saved a Vietnam Marine Corps veteran's home from a sheriff's sale.

Only a few years ago we started the Jobs For Veterans Program. It was very successful. We got jobs for many Vietnam vets. We helped call attention to those we failed to help ourselves. The federal government and other agencies jumped in. The program was geared mainly to the Vietnam War veteran, just emerging from service, who had little or no training and job experience.

Today, however, there are young veterans and older ones too (who never expected to be out of a job again) on the unemployment lines. Today's post assistance should be geared to help all age groups. It shouldn't make any difference how old the veteran is or what war he served in. If he needs help, he should get it.

There are many veterans—a good number of them Legionnaires—who today *still* don't know rights and benefits they may be entitled to as veterans! In hard times, there are cases in which this knowledge may be a lifesaver for some. More and better-trained Legion post service officers suddenly become more essential to post services.

Our pledge to be of service to "community, state and nation," and "to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness" says a lot—if we work at it.

If we will draw together more than ever for "mutual helpfulness," then maybe the nation can emulate us. There's no doubt that it's a challenge. The Legion is used to challenges.

"When the going gets tough, the Legion gets going." END

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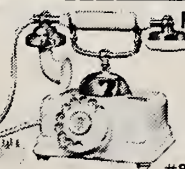
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# An Illinois Cemetery With An Unusual History

**I**F YOU are driving east or west on Interstate 74 in Illinois, you will come to Illinois route 49 about halfway between Champaign-Urbana and Danville—some 25 miles or so from the Indiana border on Interstate 74. Turning south on 49 will bring you to Homer, Ill., in less than five miles. The shade trees of Homer's streets, its water tower and grain elevator form a cluster that stands out like an island on the prairie.

On the northeast side of Homer is a cemetery with an unusual history. So many Civil War veterans were buried there that by 1866 or earlier the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic took an intense interest in it.

In 1887, the owners deeded the section where the veterans were buried to a board of trustees of Homer's GAR Post 263 (the big Union veterans' organization). And in 1894, title passed from the trustees to the GAR post itself.

The GAR carefully tended the cemetery, provided for the continuing burial of Union veterans there, erected war monuments and other memorials and suitably decorated the graves every Memorial Day.

By 1922, the ranks of the GAR had thinned and the youngest of them was nearing 80. They worried about the continuing care of their cemetery. On April 12, 1922, before they



Homer, Ill., and its GAR Cemetery, owned, tended by veterans for nearly a century.

disbanded, the survivors turned the cemetery over to the then brand new American Legion Post 290, of Homer. The Legionnaires guaranteed to maintain the cemetery and preserve its name—The GAR Cemetery.

Another 53 years have passed, and the Homer Legion Post still carefully maintains the cemetery. It has added

a Legion Annex for the burial of veterans of later wars. In 1950, the Post rebuilt all the roadways. Until 1957 the Legion hired a caretaker, but for the last 18 years the Post members have cared for the cemetery themselves, working at it voluntarily in their free time, though it has required up to 70 man-hours a week, including almost continual mowing and trimming in summer.

In the original cemetery there are buried one veteran of the Black Hawk War, 90 Civil War veterans and four Spanish-American war veterans, all from Homer and surrounding towns. Veterans of later wars continue to be buried in the Legion Annex—274 in a recent ten-year period. Naturally, the Memorial Day observances and military funeral rites are seen to by the Homer Legion Post, which also gives its veterans' graves care 365 days a year.

Wherever they are, the old GAR's can rest assured that their trust was kept. In 1969, Kemp Catlett, President of Homer's First National Bank, wrote a testimonial to the Homer Legion Post, saying in part that for 12 years he had been watching Legionnaires "mow, trim and care for . . . our beautiful cemetery" when their own yards might need that attention more.

Photos: American Legion Post 290, Homer, Ill.



A Legion Memorial Day observance at the Homer cemetery in recent years.





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## HOW GEORGE WASHINGTON GOT HIS GUNPOWDER

smugglers who were willing to run it to the colonies and sell it there.

The influential Mr. Franklin saw to it that their own governments did not object to these merchants' honest business in a Dutch port, while he advised Congress to pay whatever price it had to, and joined other colonial leaders in seeking foreign loans to help pay such prices.

Nor was all the business in hard-to-get cash. Statia had long been a trading port for American tobacco, and now tobacco was traded there for powder and arms.

The European nations were already only too glad to help twist the Lion's tail in anything short of outright war. When it came to getting the powder as far as Statia, all Britain could do was complain.

If others underrate the power of the profit motive, Mr. Franklin did not. However immoral the Statia trade was in British eyes, it was a perfectly legal piece of business.

Under this legal cloak, a fair amount of munitions arriving in Statia originated with *British* merchants and shippers. It was a Dutch port, wasn't it? It was good business, wasn't it? In fact, the French historian, Henri Doniol, who specialized in France's role in our Revolution, wrote that Dr. Franklin even persuaded British merchants who had qualms about selling arms to the enemy to join in the trade.

Sometimes, these merchants seemed almost contemptuous of British authority. Late in 1780, Admiral Hood, conveying a flock of English merchantmen to the Caribbean, awoke to find that 12 ships of the convoy had disappeared during the night. He didn't know whether they'd been lost, stolen or had strayed.

The mystery was solved about a month later, when Hood anchored off Statia. There were the British ships, transferring their cargoes to American bottoms, according to John F. Jameson, writing in the *American Historical Review*. There was a scandal in England when someone leaked this to the public.

The British government forbade the export of arms as early as Oct. 1, 1774, but that order was little more than a nuisance to British smugglers. A few greased palms, phony inventories, false destination papers and British ships carrying gunpowder for General Washington were on their way to "neutral" ports in Europe or the Caribbean, to Nova Scotia or even the American coast.

Even American vessels, flying neutral flags and carrying false papers, ran powder from Europe to Statia.

On Statia, and to a lesser degree on other nearby islands owned by Spain, Denmark and France, most of the ammo was bought by American agents. They sent it to the United States on fast, sleek Bermuda sloops (sold to the Americans illegally).

Some came via "powder cruises," officially sponsored by Congress or the various states. The Massachusetts Board of War, for instance, had 32

shipped north by wagon, or by water from Albemarle Sound, up the Chowan River, to the South Quay in southern Virginia, then by land to Suffolk, by ferry across the James, York and Potomac Rivers, by boat again from Bladensburg, Md., to Chesapeake Bay, and from there by wagon to where it was needed.

No one knows today exactly how much gunpowder and other munitions reached Washington via this dangerous, circuitous, clandestine route, but it was a considerable amount—enough to enable the Continental Army to oust the British from Boston, to fight vigorously in the vain defense of Long Island, New



THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

"trading vessels," most of them bearing French names, collecting gunpowder not only in the Caribbean but also at Nantes, France; Bilbao, Spain, and other European ports. South Carolina, Maryland, Connecticut, Virginia and Pennsylvania also sponsored powder cruises.

The large majority of them evaded capture, despite frantic British efforts to intercept them, through superior knowledge of American waters, outstanding seamanship, faster-sailing vessels and native wit.

Once the gunrunning ships were within sight of the American coast, their small size became an important advantage. They usually sailed through Ocracoke Inlet—a passage through the sandbar that separates Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds from the Atlantic off North Carolina—then up various rivers and creeks, out of reach of big British cruisers.

From there, the munitions were

York and northern New Jersey, and to give Washington some confidence that he could at least put up a good battle.

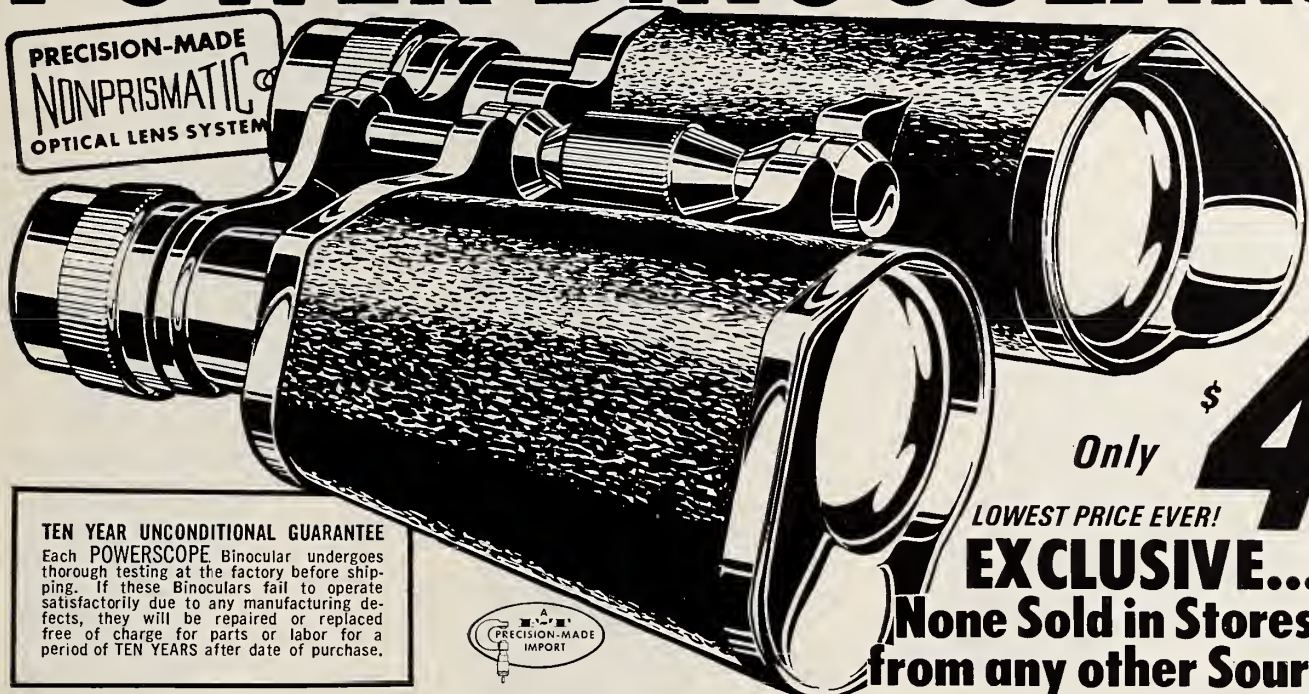
The British knew quite well what Statia meant to the American war effort. "This rock of only six miles in length and three in breadth has done England more harm than all the arms of her most potent enemies and alone [has] supported the infamous American rebellion," said Admiral Rodney, commander of the British Navy's Leeward Island fleet in 1780.

Actually, Rodney was exaggerating. America got even more gunpowder from other clandestine sources. But without Statia, especially in the first part of the war, Washington and his army could not have survived.

On Sept. 18, 1775, Congress appointed Franklin, Silas Deane, (Continued on page 38)



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## HOW GEORGE WASHINGTON GOT HIS GUNPOWDER

Robert Morris and others to a Secret Committee of Correspondence, to put munitions procurement on a more regular basis. The Secret Committee was staffed by America's shrewdest, most experienced merchants and given considerable power and money.

It took over the Statia munitions trade, assumed control of Franklin's gunrunning network, and expanded its operations. In the end, the Secret Committee became a massive import-export agency, its operations reaching throughout the Western world. Little is known for certain about its exact deeds, because the Committee destroyed its records. But the steady flow of war supplies to George Washington and his men beginning only months after the Committee was established, and running for the duration of the war, gives solid evidence that this branch of Congress did its work well.

One Secret Committee member, wealthy Robert Morris, had been a leading Philadelphia international trader for 20 years. He and his agents bought up most of the tobacco Congress intended to sell for gunpowder. His agents in the Caribbean bought up the gunpowder and sold it to Congress. Morris made large personal profits in the bargain.

Morris' presence on the Secret Committee was invaluable to the country. His acquaintances, his knowledge, his abilities perfectly supplemented Franklin's. His profits helped him become a major financier of the Revolution. When the credit of Congress collapsed in 1781, Morris assumed its financial direction—and among other things bought all army supplies on his personal credit.

After more than five years of war, the British could abide Statia no longer. On Feb. 3, 1781, Admirals Rodney and Hood seized control of the island. (By that time, England was at war with most of Europe.) Rodney and Hood captured more than three million pounds worth of contraband, mostly munitions. They sent it home in 24 cargo ships, most of which were recaptured by French and American privateers and sent back to America.

If any single man was more responsible than the good Dr. Franklin for getting General Washington his gunpowder, it was Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, the French playwright who wrote *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Barber of Seville*.

"Handsome, persuasive, daring and enormously talented," according to writer Helen Augur, Beaumarchais

propelled himself into the inner circles of the French court by making a remarkable finger ring watch for Madame de Pompadour.

About 1774 (still in peacetime), Beaumarchais became a French spy in London. His task: to discover England's plans in regard to France, sample English public opinion and inform the Comte de Vergennes (France's Foreign Minister) and King Louis XVI.

In the course of his work, Beaumarchais met many Americans, most of them also friends of Franklin, and he became converted to the American cause.

Even before the war, he'd begun to scout around for arms to send to America. Like Franklin, he'd also urged European merchants to become gunrunners.

But Beaumarchais had bigger things in mind. Beginning in the summer of 1775, he devoted almost all of his energies to helping America. His most important ally was M. Vergennes. The French Foreign Minister also wanted to aid the patriots, mostly because he could imagine no better way to damage England.

Vergennes allowed French merchants every sort of illicit trade with the Americans in French ports. He even subsidized some. But he did

this so indirectly that even the all-knowing British Embassy in Paris only guessed at the truth.

For his part, Beaumarchais continued his contacts with foreign gunrunners and worked to persuade the French King of the value of the American rebellion to French interests. On Sept. 21, 1775, he wrote Louis XVI that the Americans had a great army and would be invincible in battle. The King was impressed. But he was not convinced, so Beaumarchais and Vergennes dispatched a French agent, Archard de Bonvouloir, to study America first-hand.

In December 1775, Bonvouloir showed up at Franklin's house in Philadelphia. He represented himself as a merchant from Antwerp with powerful friends in France. But Franklin's nose smelled the truth. He brought Bonvouloir to a meeting of the Secret Committee and proceeded to tell the Frenchman that the entire country was behind the war, that Washington's army was growing, that the war was going splendidly.

None of this was true, but he knew it was what his visitor wanted to hear. Even some members of the Committee were doubtful about independence. And almost as they met, Washington was using the last of his gunpowder and many of his soldiers were deserting.

(Continued on page 40)



"I'll try to be brief as possible, Mr. Buxton—yesterday my wife and I were asked to attend the 'reading of a will' . . ."

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## HOW GEORGE WASHINGTON GOT HIS GUNPOWDER

On Feb. 27, 1776, Bonvouloir's favorable report reached Vergennes and Beaumarchais. They were delighted with it and sent it to the King immediately.

Meanwhile, Vergennes had ordered one of France's best artillery officers to survey French arsenals and select huge amounts of armament for eventual shipment to America. He also ordered Antoine Lavoisier's munitions works to go into full production. His gunpowder was considered the best ever made.

Beaumarchais, meanwhile, had been devising a brilliant, complicated scheme to see that America received these munitions, a plan worthy of a master playwright. On February 29, he revealed his plan in a memo to the King. The first part of his memo warned that if the colonies and England made up, France was sure to lose its Caribbean sugar islands, and Spain both its islands and its mainland territory.

"What shall we do in this extremity to win peace and save our islands? Sire, the only means is to give help to the Americans. . . . If it is replied that we cannot aid the Americans without drawing a storm upon us, I reply that this danger can be averted if we aid the Americans secretly."

Then, in the second part of his memo, Beaumarchais described his plan. He would set up a dummy trading company called Roderique Hortalez and Company, with himself at the head. Initial funds would come from Louis XVI and Charles III, the Spanish king.

With this money, Beaumarchais would buy powder, arms and uniforms from French stocks and send them to America, in return for Virginia tobacco—which could be sold for such high prices, he said, that both kings would make a tidy profit. (Actually, both suffered personal losses.)

On May 2, six weeks after the British evacuated Boston and while Washington was fortifying New York, the two kings okayed the playwright's scheme, each throwing a million livres—a considerable fortune—into the pot. Eventually, French merchants—who stood to make the real money—added nearly three million livres more and Louis XVI came up with still another million.

About that time, Louis XVI commanded that his navy be rebuilt and his army reequipped. By the stroke of his pen, he therefore turned their old arms and supplies into cheap

government surplus for sale to the Continental Army.

Beaumarchais promptly went into business with a vengeance. He wrote a letter to the Secret Committee, introducing himself, and said, "I have procured for you about 200 pieces of brass cannon, 200,000 pounds of cannon powder, 20,000 excellent fusils, some brass mortars, bombs, cannon balls, bayonets, clothes, etc. . . .

"You will recollect my signature, that one of your friends in London, some time ago, informed you of my favorable disposition towards you and my attachment to your interest."



"Prince has the knack of converting joggers into sprinters."

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

While Beaumarchais was getting his Hortalez Company under way, the Secret Committee, completely unaware of his activities, was dispatching Silas Deane to Paris, to increase the flow of illicit arms to the new nation and to enlist French aid on whatever level possible. Using Franklin's contacts, Deane soon met Beaumarchais. Before long, they were working hand-in-glove to provide America's needs, via the Hortalez dummy corporation.

But outfitting and loading ships to take munitions to America seemed to take forever. And every time a ship was ready, the British (whose spies knew all) pressured Vergennes to keep it in port. Behind their threats: the possibility of war.

Vergennes, a smooth operator, always complied, at least until the heat was off. Sometimes, such as in the summer and fall of 1777, when the British were retaking Ticonde-

roga and capturing Philadelphia, he delayed Hortalez shipments even longer, to be sure the American cause was still alive.

Finally, by fits and starts, a generous flow of powder, arms, uniforms, etc., began moving across the Atlantic to the Caribbean, consigned to Hortalez at Martinique, at Cap Francois (in present-day Haiti) and at Statia. American agents received these cargoes and sent them northward, sometimes in the same ships.

In April 1777, the first Hortalez-chartered vessels arrived in Portsmouth, N.H.—the *Mercure* and the *Amphitrite*. They provided Washington with a large supply of gunpowder, 60 cannons, 12,000 muskets and much clothing.

In all, seven of the eight large ships Beaumarchais chartered delivered their cargo safely. And the eighth managed to offload part of her supplies at Martinique before she was captured.

According to Bruce Lancaster, in the American Heritage Book of the Revolution, 80% of America's gunpowder during the critical years of 1777 and 1778 came from Hortalez and Company. Without it, Gates would never have beaten Burgoyne at Saratoga on Oct. 17, 1777, and America would have lost one of her most significant triumphs.

Nonetheless, the Hortalez shipments were only a one-shot, stopgap solution to Washington's munitions problems. They might have sufficed had the war ended in 1778. But the war went on. A permanent, continuing supply of arms was needed. Once more, it was Dr. Franklin who took the major role.

When Congress first heard about Hortalez and Company, it felt France might be ripe for a treaty of trade and friendship. So, in October 1776, it appointed Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane and Arthur Lee to diplomatic posts in France.

Deane was already there, of course, aiding Beaumarchais. Lee was also in Europe. Franklin arrived in Paris in early December and set to work on the project almost at once. He wanted nothing less than to bring France into the war.

It took him a little over a year of adroit manipulation to carry it off.

On Jan. 8, 1778, France and the United States signed a military alliance. From that moment on, French arms flowed freely into the United States, officially and in greater quantity than ever before—supported now by a fully belligerent French navy. Once and for all, Franklin had solved Washington's gunpowder problem.

END.



# PREPARE TO DIE!

Picture this: It's 3:00 o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon. Your wife gets a phone call from your office: "I don't know how to tell you this," someone says, "but your husband has just passed away. He slumped across his desk—suddenly—about an hour ago. We called an ambulance, but when we got him to the hospital, he was gone."

What would your wife do? Would she, in that moment of anguish, be able to cope with the confusing tangle of legal red tape that follows everyone's death?

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- Delay in issuance of a death certificate (believe it or not, this can result in postponement of the funeral itself).
- Loss of reimbursement for funeral costs and/or forfeiture of lump-sum cash benefits from former employers, labor unions, social security, fraternal, church and other such organizations, simply because your survivors did not realize they were entitled to them (*billions* in such benefits are lost annually through ignorance).
- Long-term postponement in settlement of your estate, due to lack of access to, or complete unawareness of the existence of, your safe deposit box, or simply to inability to find the key.
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- Loss of life, health, accident, workmen's compensation and other such insurance benefits, due to your heirs' ignorance of the existence of such policies.
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- Denial of veteran's benefits and free burial because your family lacked your armed forces serial number.

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As you can see, to avoid just *any one* of these tragedies, Moneysworth's *Lifesavers: Vital Facts for the Living* forms can be a lifesaver.

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Where Retirement Benefits Go Furthest  
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## THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

out of the spent fuels—in order to get more usable fuel from the use of uranium.

If the twin plans proceed to extract the plutonium from present accumulated wastes and then extract the larger amounts from the spent fuels of breeder reactors, the amount of refined fissionable plutonium will increase from very little at present, to considerably more in a few years, and—sometime in the next 25 years—to worldwide production of a great deal more.

Anyone who saw the CPB television program, "The Plutonium Connection," of March 9, got a better picture of the security problem presented by the proliferation of the manufacture of plutonium than we have space for here. Participants in the taped show included several men who are directly responsible for safeguarding and transporting nuclear fuels, including plutonium, and it was produced with the advice and cooperation of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The program began with a report on a 20-year-old college chemistry student who was given five weeks to design a plutonium bomb on his own, from information that he would have to find in public sources. Except for the plutonium, he had to incorporate in the design only materials that he could openly procure himself. He was allowed to assume that he had as much plutonium as he would need.

He came up with a design within the time limit. Our own Nuclear Regulatory Commission would not comment on it. It was sent for appraisal by NOVA, the TV producers, to Jan Prawitz, a nuclear physicist with the Swedish Ministry of Defense.

**P**RAWITZ consulted with colleagues and said that the crude bomb had a "fair" chance of exploding with a "low" yield, possibly less than the equal of 100 tons of TNT, possibly more than 1,000 tons.

The TV show did not say what it would take for the student to produce the bomb as well as design it. A New York Times story a few weeks before the broadcast reported an interview with the student. According to the Times, he said it took him 222 hours to design the bomb, that it might take him a year to make it, that it would cost him between \$10,000 and \$30,000, that it might weigh between 550 and 1,000 pounds, and require between 10 and 20 pounds of plutonium.

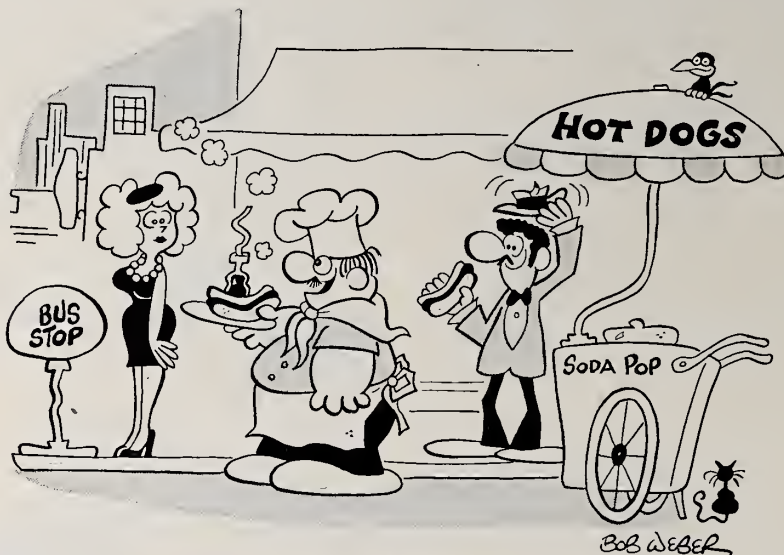
Prawitz's assessment does not fully confirm the idea that plutonium in

the wrong hands could be easily converted to a workable amateur bomb. The assessment itself was vague. What does a "fair" chance that the student's bomb would work mean? Prawitz was not sure, within a factor of ten, what the yield would be, if the bomb should work. This scientific vagueness may relate to the possibility that he and his colleagues have more of a theoretical than a

ber glove is sufficient to block its radiation, while it is commonly handled in small pellets packaged in cans containing about 3.2 pounds each.

At present, there is no plutonium being processed here in any civilian installation, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And none is yet being shipped to power company plants. What we make is still all made for the military and handled under military security, while commercial applications lie in the future.

From all one can gather from what



"It's been taken care of."

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

practical knowledge of how nuclear bombs are made. None have ever been made in Sweden, while for more than 30 years those with practical experience have had a high degree of certainty regarding what will work and what won't, and what yield may be expected. What the student's bomb design actually proved is thus still up in the air, and the experiment may have raised more uneasy questions than it answered.

Plutonium need not be made into a bomb to create mischief, for plutonium—first discovered in 1940—is slightly radioactive, and also one of the most poisonous known substances. Minute amounts of it are found thinly dispersed in natural ores. All significant amounts of it are man-made from forced uranium fission. It exists in both pellet and powder form. A trace of plutonium dust in a wound, inhaled or taken internally can be lethal, though the dust is too heavy to float in the air. In handling plutonium in processing plants, the most careful precautions are taken. A rub-

little is said about security, there is not a chance that anyone can just walk out of a processing plant with a can of it. And one does not gather that it would ever be sent to a power plant as fuel in such a handy and portable form, but more likely in big, heavy bundles of rods, intermixed—as enriched uranium is—with a preponderance of radioactively inert materials.

The experts on the TV show described the enormous precautions that are used to guard plutonium at the few processing plants now operating here, and to protect employees from harm. They also described elaborate precautions to guard against hijacking in transit.

But to a man, they did not feel satisfied, given the nature of plutonium, the impending manufacture of a great deal more of it for commercial use, and the emergence in the world of mad, armed groups such as the Olympic assassins.

Plutonium "convoys" travel on highways in guarded armored cars





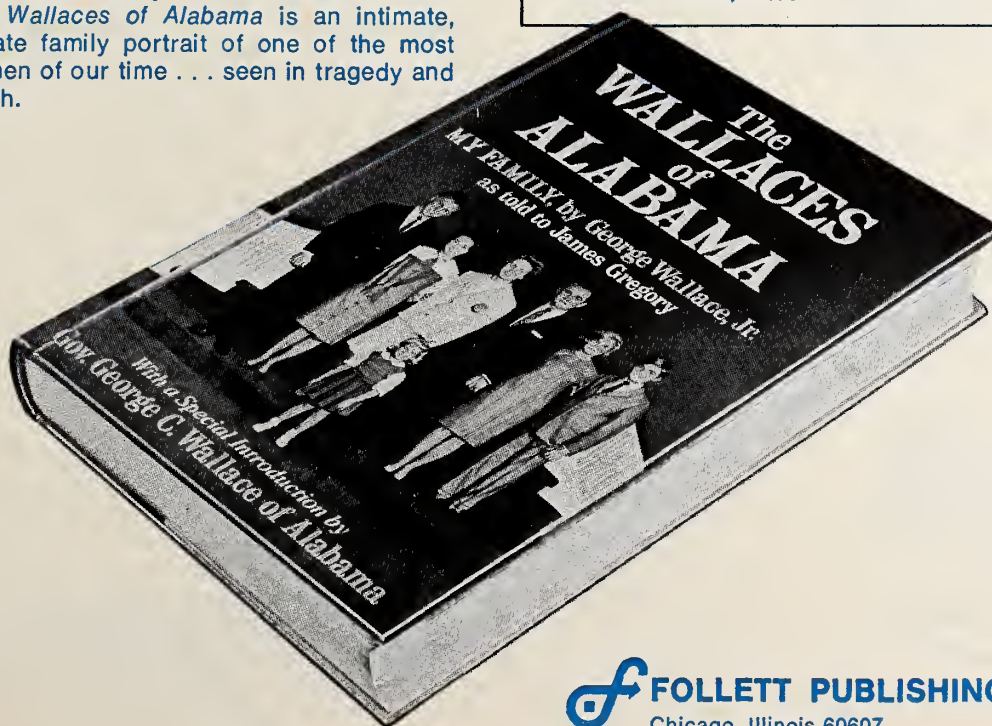
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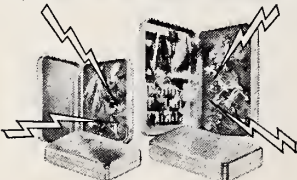
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CONTINUED

## THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

that are designed to take a long time to break open if seized. The "convoys" must regularly report their location by radio-telephone.

But a sufficient suicidal paramilitary anarchist force might still seize a shipment, because there is a limit to the size of the force that a routine convoy can be designed to fight off.

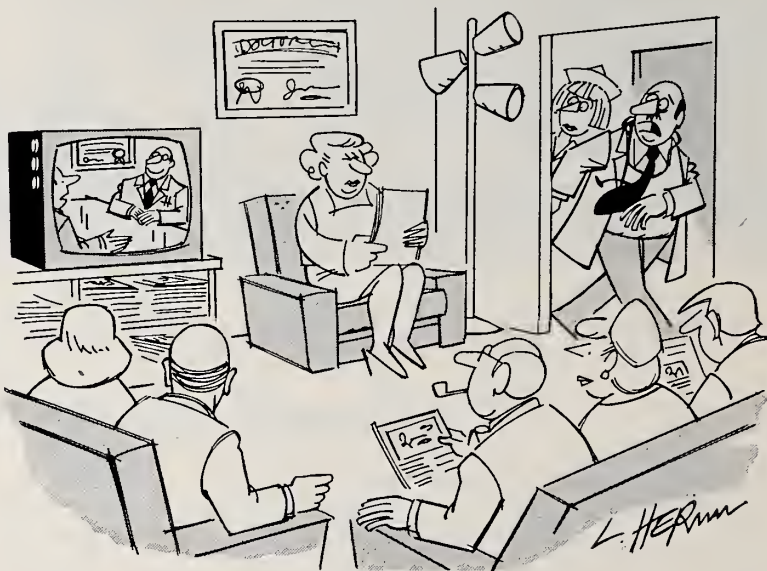
Shipments may pass through areas that are cut off from radio contact by the terrain, and these are known areas.

One scientist has insisted that be-

of material [plutonium], you have lost [from the books] several critical masses in a month [from the accounting system allowance for error]."

The point of his comment was that a slow pilferage of tiny bits of plutonium could pass undetected as part of the expected accounting error. A critical mass, of course, is enough to start spontaneous fission if brought compactly together.

Bob Keepin, a Los Alamos scientist, explained how the accounting system can never be 100% perfect:



"How do TV doctors manage to have only one patient at a time?"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

fore we regularly ship larger amounts of plutonium, provision should be made for constant communications via satellite. It was he who also suggested that the minimum plutonium "package" in transit should have a total contained weight of 100 tons.

Strict accounting systems exist for both enriched uranium and plutonium, so that, theoretically, if any were missing from any installation using them, it would soon show up on the balance sheet. But no accounting system yet devised is adequate to indicate slow pilferage by an inside job. In processing plants, enough of the fuels become mixed up with sweepings, cling to rubber gloves that are disposed of, and are lost without leaving the premises in other ways so that the balance sheet never balances, and 1% allowance for error is written into the accounting system.

On the TV show, Dr. John Googin noted that "in a plant of the future where there's much larger amounts

"This [processing plant] jungle of pipes and tanks and vats and valves does not lend itself to easy measurement because it's quite a hodgepodge. . . . Fissionable material can be in different forms—oxide, nitrates, carbides; they can be in different physical forms, in lumps and chunks, mixed in with sand, or floor sweepings . . . there is a category that's generally known as GKW. That stands for God Knows What . . . and it has to do with just the unknown matrix in which material can be found. You've got everything [that may have some unaccounted-for traces of plutonium on it] from rubber gloves to Kimwipes. . . . So this just adds to the problem of measurement. . . .

There have been several instances of large amounts of uranium or plutonium disappearing from the books. For nine years, 143 pounds of enriched uranium have been unaccounted for at a government plant in



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*J. B. Rockford, Ill.*

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*C. O. Garden Grove, Calif.*

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CONTINUED

#### THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

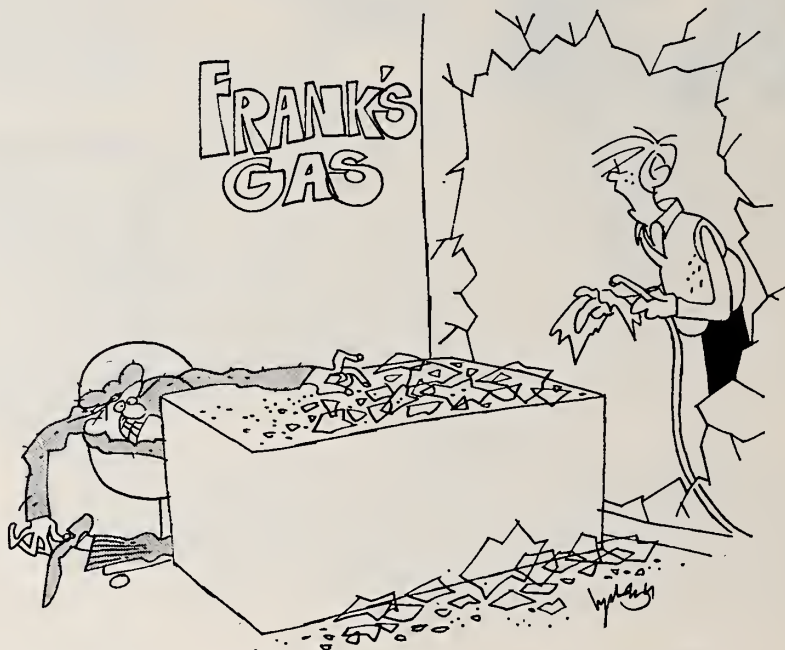
Pennsylvania. A plutonium plant in Oklahoma was recently said to have 60 or more pounds of plutonium unaccounted for.

Some news stories made headlines by saying that the material was "missing" from the plants, or "lost." But to date there is no evidence that any of it ever actually got off the premises—whether it did or not. The AEC and its successors insist that it is almost certainly still there, but found its way—thinly dispersed—to the dumps, unnoted, in GKW.

with them than with the unused fuels, given an armed, organized effort.

The problem of actually using enriched uranium or radioactive wastes seized in transit would be about the same. Highly enriched uranium—used by few power plants—is more dangerous in the wrong hands.

The fuels exist in their pure form at the processing plants, where large amounts of radioactive wastes are also stored, and at fuel fabricating plants. Slow pilferage is more likely at a fabricating plant than at any



"Sorry, . . . I was filling my basketball with air and it exploded . . ."

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Some tentative conclusions are possible from available information. Pilferage at power generating plants of enriched uranium would require a high degree of inside organization. It is nearly impossible. The material does not exist there in forms that can be picked up in little bits by a few sly individuals and readily converted into mischievous forms. Even the armed seizure of the massive enriched fuel units in most power plants would call for a large, organized force, while it would be most difficult to make subversive use of them by anything short of an industrialized organization.

It would take a similar force to make off with the heavy packages of waste radioactive materials. Because of their potentiality for environmental poisoning, they are dangerous—granted the dubious assumption that the thieves could handle them safely. It would be a little easier to make off

other installation. A higher degree of security presently exists at fabricating and processing plants than at power plants, but hardly anyone agrees that it is yet tight enough to respond in time to an organized, armed attack by a reckless group with nuclear sophistication. The problems are recognized and are under study, but not enough has yet been appropriated or organized in the United States to satisfy the most rigid notion of what is required.

**T**HE accounting system for fissionable materials is not accurate, nor could it bring an awareness of pilferage until the materials had already been taken.

Some improvements in accounting which the AEC sought were cancelled when Congress chose not to OK the whole supplementary appropriation

(Continued on page 48)



# How to collect from Social Security at any age!

Would you like to know how much money you have invested in Social Security right to the penny? Then would you like to know how to get the most from that investment including all the brand new Social Security benefits? Now you can do both by using the short easy coupon at the bottom of this page. Here is the way it works. The left half of the coupon will be sent to the proper government office. They will run a check on your account and then send you a report in a confidential sealed envelope. This report will tell you how much of your earnings have been recorded in your Social Security account year by year. There is no charge for this service, not even postage.

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- How your whole family is eligible for Social Security benefits, even your youngest children.
- How to replace a lost Social Security check.



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- How to get a refund if you have overpaid your Social Security taxes. (Studies show that two out of three people overpay.)
- How to figure out what your Social Security retirement payments should be.
- Should you tattoo your Social Security number on your body?
- What papers do you need in order to file a Social Security claim?
- How ten million people who are only 30 years old, on the average, collect Social Security.
- Should you get a divorce in order to get more Social Security? (a lot of people already have.)
- How to get free services which are available from Social Security.
- How to make sure your employer is not cheating you on your Social Security.
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- When are the five times you should get in touch with your Social Security office?
- How to work and still get Social Security benefits.
- How to cash in on Social Security even if you've never paid a penny into it.
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CONTINUED

## THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

that was recently requested for building up security.

The security measures presently applied to plutonium in the United States may be close to adequate (and may not) for the present situation, but the planned great expansion in the production of plutonium presents hazards of blackmail and sabotage that are enormous and as yet inadequately appraised. For this reason, there is mounting political pressure to postpone or cancel its expansion in three major areas.

1. To delay or cancel the planned production of plutonium from existing wastes.

2. To delay or cancel authorization for power plants to use plutonium as a fuel when it becomes available from reworked wastes.

3. To delay or cancel the "breeder reactor" program that would vastly increase the amount of plutonium produced as a by-product of generating power with breeders.

**A**LL of these problems and uncertainties are magnified because we are only talking here about the United States. The same risks are involved in the use and further development of fissionable fuels in other nations. In many of them, present security is not as good as it is in the United States, though some of them are already proceeding to manufacture plutonium from existing wastes and going ahead with breeder plans of their own.

While a few nations—such as West Germany and the Soviet Union—have better security perhaps than we do,

international standards and enforcement of security are hardly realistic. The International Atomic Energy Agency, headquartered in Vienna, has an accounting system for fissionable materials in many nations, but as a world monitor it has more holes in it than our own accounting system. Several major nations have refused to sign the nonproliferation treaty, including France, China and Israel. They are entirely outside of any worldwide accounting system.

**A**s blackmailers do not observe national borders, and can threaten anyone with materials obtained anywhere; and as some nations can themselves become international blackmailers with stockpiled atomic materials, it is difficult to argue rationally with even the most extreme propagandists against nuclear energy that even the "Atoms for Peace" program is not a bear which the world has by the tail.

It may be too late to bring all atomic materials on earth under proper safeguards, without a greater degree of international cooperation than history has yet shown us. Possibly, sober reconsideration might yet bring off better international policing of atomic materials than now exists. But the determination of most of the world to meet its electricity needs from atomic power is steadily pushing the drive to vastly expand the production of plutonium. About the only way out of this would be for the world to take the rapid development of solar energy much more seriously than it does now.

END.



"It's reached a point now where we can't even afford to be frugal!"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE



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But the middle layer is the most important secret of ARCH-EASE's success. It's a special synthetic material that molds itself to the exact shape of your foot — arches, bunions, corns, hammertoes, and all — within an hour of the time you begin to wear it! It's like having a custom insole fitted to *your* foot. And because you can easily transfer ARCH-EASE into any pair of shoes, it makes *all* your shoes feel as if they had been custom-made to your foot!

ARCH-EASE not only supports and raises your arch; it takes the pressure off bunions, corns, hammertoes, and other foot problems . . . to relieve the agony they can cause! The bones and muscles in your foot and lower leg can work the way nature intended them to, without artificial stresses and strains! So you enjoy the foot comfort you've been praying for!

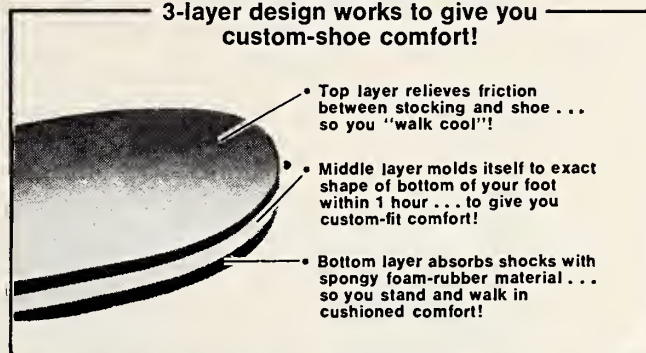
ARCH-EASE's top layer is another comfortable surprise. It's designed to reduce the friction between your stocking and your shoe. So it helps to do away with that burning heat that turns your feet into "hot dogs"!

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## PERSONAL

### WATCH FOR SHOPPING BARGAINS. INSURANCE PROTECTION ALERT! CLIPPING THOSE COLLEGE COSTS.

If you're a smart shopper, you can take some of the edge off inflation by watching for deals and temporary price reductions. Over the coming months, the equivalent of many "white sales" will be staged because:

1) **Manufacturers and retailers don't want to carry large stocks of inventory.** Idle merchandise burns up 10% to 15% per year in carrying charges, thereby drastically reducing the owner's liquidity.

2) **Sellers often want to maintain their competitive position**, even at a sacrifice. This is now noticeable in the chain-store field, where giants are scrambling for a dwindling market.

3) **Makers of slow-moving items are forced to offer "bargains" to keep their plants open and their dealers alive.** Autos are a case in point.

Another gambit you're sure to see is the **introduction of less expensive lines of merchandise**—thus giving you a wider buying latitude.

To be a good buyer: Watch ads carefully; keep track of unemployment statistics as a clue to future price cuts; read financial reports of big companies. Meantime, the death of so-called "fair trade laws"—which force dealers to maintain prices—will be another, though perhaps minor, help.

★ ★ ★

If you haven't done so lately, be sure to check 1) whether you have adequate insurance on your home, and 2) the soundness of your underwriter. Here's why:

A number of property and casualty companies currently are experiencing steep declines in their capital and surplus accounts. The upshot, says the Insurance Information Institute, is that some companies could be about to write "more insurance than (their) surplus will safely allow." Look into the matter—there are plenty of safe companies around if your present underwriter appears shaky. (Don't worry about the financial health of your life insurer; he's okay.)

Meantime, building costs have risen so rapidly that you run a very real risk by underinsuring—in case you should ever have to rebuild.

As for your car insurance, premiums may well go up—if they haven't already—depending on the area in which you live and your driving record.

★ ★ ★

**Your children—or relatives, if you're helping them—are going to have a tough time in college this fall.** Getting in isn't the problem (there's plenty of room). **Footing the bills is the big hurdle.**

To give you an idea: Colleges have been raising their charges so rapidly that tuition, room and board at a top-flight private institution will come to about \$7,000 in the new school year. Add travel, clothing and incidentals to that, and the total becomes backbreaking. Costs have grown so burdensome that the following alternatives should be explored:

1) **State universities, which by and large, have lower fees**—providing the student stays within his own state.

2) **Two-year colleges, the least expensive of all; and travel and room and board can be cut down.**

3) **Loans and scholarships are available, but this is a complex area.** Colleges—and often high schools—will try to guide you, so ask there first. But a **student's chances of getting much financial aid if he comes from a family with an income over \$15,000 are rather slim.** Also try the following:

- Ask if your employer or union has any aid provisions (many do).
- Check the Veterans' Administration.
- Inquire at your bank or savings and loan association about education loans. The interest rate may be steep, but see what they have to offer.
- Consider suggesting to your student that he enroll on a part-time basis or wait a while before entering. This idea has some risks, though: 1) jobs are very hard to get, and 2) college costs will be still higher in the future.

By Edgar A. Grunwald

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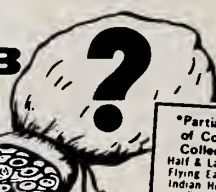
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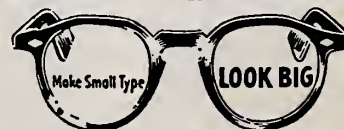
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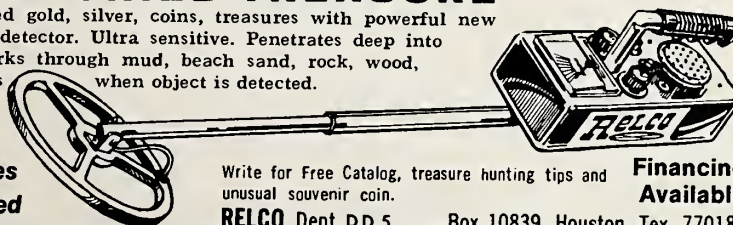
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MISSION, KANSAS 66222  
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Write for free color catalog, price list, and information on our "TRY BEFORE YOU BUY" plan with no obligation

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Find buried gold, silver, coins, treasures with powerful new electronic detector. Ultra sensitive. Penetrates deep into earth. Works through mud, beach sand, rock, wood, etc. Signals when object is detected.

**Dealer  
Inquiries  
Invited**



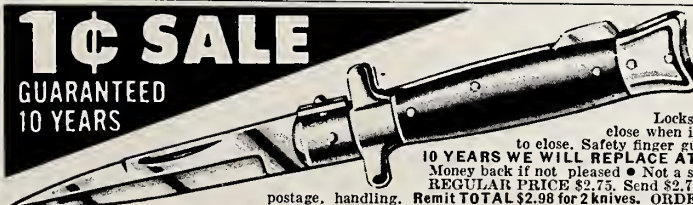
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**GUARANTEED  
10 YEARS**



The knife for hunting, fishing and all around use. Mirror polished, imported stainless steel blade honed to a razor's edge. Rugged. Opens with flick of finger.

Locks into position. Blade will not close when in use. Press button in handle to close. Safety finger guard. **IF BROKEN WITHIN 10 YEARS WE WILL REPLACE AT NO CHARGE!** Use 30 days.

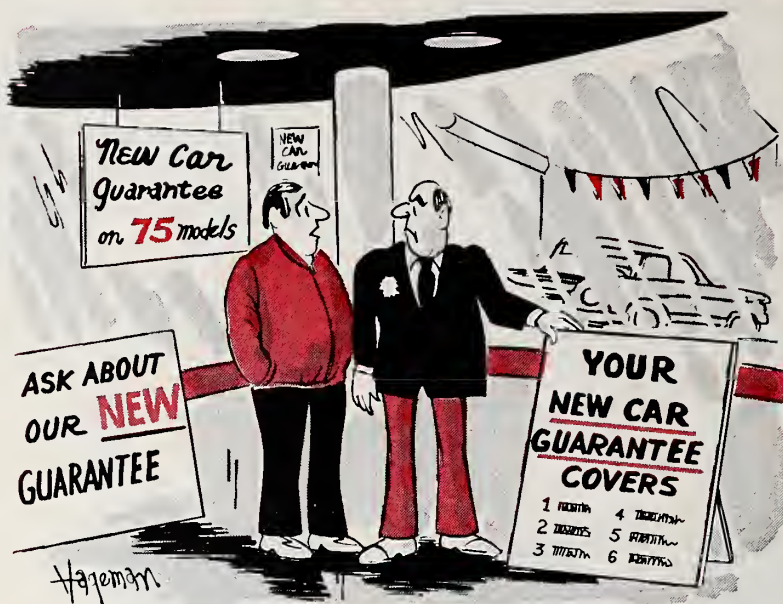
Money back if not pleased • Not a switchblade • **Special Sale.**

REGULAR PRICE \$2.75. Send \$2.76 & receive 2 knives. Add 22¢

postage, handling. Remit **TOTAL \$2.98 for 2 knives.** ORDER NOW! Midwest Knife Co., 9043 S. Western, Dept. DAS-4357, Chicago, Ill. 60620, Est. 1936. Mail Orders Only.



# Parting Shots



"Before I sign the papers I wonder if I could see the car that goes with the guarantee?"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

## A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY

When my father-in-law recently bought some country property near the small town of Heathsville, Virginia, he dealt with a local law firm. Within a short period of time all the necessary legal transactions were taken care of and he assumed that his short but pleasant association with Hyde & Hayne had ended.

After several months, though, he received a letter from them that transmitted a refund check for the grand total of .72 cents. In the true spirit of the friendly little town, Mrs. Hyde had written the P.S., "Don't buy too much."

Impressed with the honesty and warmth of these people, my father-in-law sent them the following "accounting for the disbursement of a 72¢ refund" by return mail:

Small posey for wife	.30¢
Piggy bank deposit for 9-month-old grandson who will someday vote for Hyde for President	.32
Postage stamp to tell you how much pleasure your note brought us	.10
TOTAL	.72
(.72¢ still goes a long way if you treat it right!)	

PATRICIA E. CARR

## IF YOU BELIEVE THIS ONE . . .

An antique collector examining an old grandfather's clock in a second-hand store discovered a defect in the back of the clock's wooden case.

"That," said the proprietor of the store, "shows how old the clock is."

"What do you mean?" asked the antique collector.

"Well," the proprietor said, "that clock is so old that the pendulum's shadow rubbed a hole through the wood."

LANE OLINHOUSE

## PRIORITIES

Both men rushed up to the cab,  
The only one on the street.  
"I have to hurry," one man said,  
"I'm late for my karate meet."

"Go ahead," was the gasped reply,  
"I'll keep on trying,  
I was only rushing to the doctor  
Because I think I am dying."

DAVID HUNTER

## HAVEN \$

Most wealthy people live very tax-sheltered lives.

F. O. WALSH

## EVEN BREAK

Life isn't completely defeating,  
If I ever got into a race  
Where another such clunk was competing,  
We'd end in a tie for last place.

S. S. BIDDLE

## GOOD ADVICE

The smart husband buys his wife such fine china and glassware that she never asks him to help her with the dishes.

GEORGE E. BERGMAN

## STILL ALARMED

The poor retired guy has this  
One fear from which he hides—  
What will he do with all the time  
Retirement provides?

As if that wasn't quite enough  
His future joy to blotch,  
His bosses really rub it in  
By giving him a watch!

RENAUD W. FREDERICK

## TOP JOB

Hat revival: Turban renewal.

AUDREY EARLE



"Business is so bad I had to lay off my son and son-in-law."

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE



**WET LOOK!**

**EUROPEAN EXCITEMENT!**  
Gentlemen's Shoe Styles  
man-made in U.S.A., High Gloss Polymeric

**Black Loafer**

**Blue Loafer**

**Green Loafer**

**Burgundy Loafer**

**Black Oxford**

**Brown Oxford**

All the Slip-On Loafers have hidden elastic gore for better fit!  
Note Oxford style too, with laces, in easy two-eyelet continental fashion.

**2 PAIRS for \$19.95**

**White Loafer**

**"Where did you ever see these shoes before?"**

In that \$40 shoe store! Remember? You went crazy over the look, but you didn't go crazy with your money. Now Haband, the Mail Order people from Paterson, N.J., have a more sensible way to join the fun without paying the price!

**GET THE SAME SOFT ANTIQUED LOOK - GET THE SAME HIGH GLOSS SHINE!**  
And the same fine type of detailing throughout! The interesting buckles. The slightly higher heel that makes you look a bit taller. The roomier toe, matched bindings, exact size and width. Even the new luxury linings. Built-in cushion heel. Haband sells hundreds and hundreds of thousands of pairs of business shoes all over America. Honestly, why pay import prices?

**AND NOW WHITE!**

So new in the expensive import high-gloss look that it is hardly off the boat, yet we can send you white or any color you choose **RIGHT NOW.**

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**GENTLEMEN'S SHOES 2 PAIRS for \$19.95**  
3 for 29.90 4 for 39.75

**IS YOUR SIZE on this CHART?**

	5 1/2	6	6 1/2	7	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	9	9 1/2	10	10 1/2	11	11 1/2	12	13
A															
B															
C															
D															
E															
EEE															

**HABAND COMPANY, Direct Service Dept.**  
265 N. 9th St., Paterson, New Jersey 07530

Gentlemen: Please send me the ..... pairs of high-gloss executive shoes as specified hereon, for which I enclose my remittance of \$..... herewith.

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You'll be very well dressed. Or stay with the basic Executive Black or Brown. They'll be the favorite pair of All-Occasion Shoes you've ever owned!





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Kings: 16 mg. "tar," 1.1 mg. nicotine—  
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Marlboro Red or Longhorn 100's—  
you get a lot to like.